

## Another Successful Golden Isles Bowl

# ECCC Warriors' Offensive Plan Pays Off

By KEVIN PRICE  
Assistant Sports Editor

On what turned out to be a picture-perfect afternoon for football, East Central Community College had the perfect offensive game plan for the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Saturday at Glynn County Stadium.

The ECCC Warriors came into the game with a potent running attack as did the other Warriors from Middle Georgia. Both teams were expected to pound the ball at each other on the ground and see which defense could withstand the challenge.

As things turned out, ECCC won the "Battle of the Warriors" by a 7-6 tally with a powerful running game and a stingy defense, but the approach taken to achieve the final result was an interesting one.

ECCC (10-1) threw the ball 11 times in the first half, nearly as much as they put it in the air during an entire game, hoping to spread out the MGC defense. That accomplished, the Mississippi Warriors finally scored late in the opening half on a 7-yard burst by freshman tailback Mack Pittman, who accounted for 54 yards of the 67-yard drive.

Leading 7-6 at halftime, ECCC was right where it wanted to be to implement the plan for the second half, which was to line up and play smash-mouth football.

"We wanted to loosen them up and let them know we could and would throw the ball," ECCC head coach Willie Coats said. "The game plan

was to open up a little bit in the first half. If the game was close or if we were ahead, we wanted to get into a two-tight end set in the second half and take it to them and grind it out. We were able to do that."

East Central passed only once more in the second half, but there was no need to throw. With Pittman, who seemed to get stronger with every carry, leading the way, ECCC rolled up 173 of its 251 rushing yards in the final two quarters. Pittman, the team's MVP, ended the game with a bowl record 197 yards rushing, surpassing the mark of 184 set by Georgia Military's Ronnie Bradley in the inaugural game.

"Our philosophy was to come out and spread them out with the play-action passes and sweeps," said Pittman, who signed with Nebraska out of high school. "In the second half, we came out with the power plays, kept possession and ran the clock."

"I was really surprised they could do that to our defense," said Middle Georgia's sophomore linebacker Antonio Cochran, who will play at Georgia next season. "My hat's off to them."

"Pittman really ran hard," added Cochran, who made 10 solo tackles to earn team MVP honors. "He's probably the best back we've faced all year. He reminded me of Ronnie Bradley for GMC last year."

Of course, the ECCC offense had hoped to score a time or two more in the second half with its power attack, but luckily, the defense performed

admirably the entire game and the team had all the points it would need.

East Central held 1,000-yard rusher Rod Sparks to only 43 yards and limited the Middle Georgia (8-4) offense to just 163 total yards with 145 rushing and 18 passing. MGC, which had only 35 total yards at the half, entered the game averaging over 200 yards a game on the ground.

"I'm not surprised our defense played well," Coats said. "They've played well all year. I want to give credit to our defensive coaches. I'm really proud of the job they did with our defense the entire year."

Roland, however, said he was a bit stunned by his offense's ineffectiveness.

"I knew they had a good defense, but I was surprised they shut us down like they did," he said. "They took some chances and did some things that gave us trouble, but we have to hit some of those open passes that we missed on."

The MGC offense struggled most of the day after scoring in the game's opening minutes after a 72-yard punt return by Deik Jackson down to the East Central 10-yard line.

Following a 5-yard TD run by Sparks, MGC had its PAT kick blocked, but ECCC was penalized for off-sides. MGC decided to go for two on its second PAT try, but quarterback Chris Howard was dropped behind the line on a rollout.

Roland said he had no second-thoughts about not trying the kick

again, which proved to be the difference in the end.

"I never would've thought this would be a one-point game," he said. "They brought 11 men on the kick and we would've come away with nothing without the penalty. We had a guy open there (on the two-point try), but didn't throw it."

Roland added that his team missed several other chances to score, their best coming late in the game when QB George Brown, who alternates with Howard, ripped off a 48-yard run to the ECCC 22. MGC had to settle for a 37-yard field goal try, which failed.

"That last stand was big," Coats said. "And, we were able to run out the clock from there. It would have been nice to score there at the end, but we just wanted to run the clock when it was obvious we had the game won."

ECCC moved from its own 20 to the MGC 4, but the final four minutes expired before they had a chance to cash in.

"I felt like if we could have gotten the ball back, we could've driven again," Roland said. "They did a good job of eating the clock."

With all the bowl festivities finally over, both coaches had nothing but nice things to say about their three-day stay in the Golden Isles.

"This compares with the major college bowls," Roland said. "The whole bowl committee is to be commended for an outstanding job. We were just thankful to be a part of it,

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### ***Bowl MVP Pittman***

East Central running back Mack Pittman (9) runs for a good gain behind the blocking of his offensive line on Saturday. Pittman, 235-pound freshman tailback, was named as the Warriors' MVP while rushing for 197 yards on 32 carries...a new bowl record here. (News Photo/Mickey Harrison)



### ***Tough Going for MGC***

Middle Georgia quarterback George Brown (9) gets set to hand off to tailback Robert Carr (22) as the East Central Warriors' defense closes in during Saturday's Golden Isles Bowl game at Glynn County Stadium. The quick ECCC defense limited Middle Georgia to just 145 yards rushing and 18 yards passing in the 7-6 win over MGC. (News Photo/Mickey Harrison)

## **ECCC Offense—**

**Continued From Page 1B**

and it was a great day for college football.

"Everything was just super," Coats said. "They really rolled out the red carpet, and treated us very nice. It couldn't have been better."

The winning coach then made his way to the team's dressing quarters, greeting players' parents along the way. When he finally made it to the locker room, the team paused for a long moment of silence in memory of their fallen teammate Nathan Russell before doing any more celebrating.

For ECCC, it was a perfect end to a bittersweet season.

**Note:** The second try at this bowl thing was termed a success by Frank Inman, chairman of the Golden Isles Bowl Committee:

"When looking at last year, we thought we had a successful inaugural bowl game," Inman said. "But, we felt this year was truly a climax to two years of effort by a tremendous number of volunteers. We had a great day, a great game and a great contribution to the young people of our community."

"The visiting team from Mississippi and our host team from Georgia both agreed that when it comes to junior college bowl games ours is the best," he added.

## **It's a Battle of Warriors in Golden Isles Bowl**

# **Time for Some Football!**

By **KEVIN PRICE**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Despite some bus problems for Middle Georgia Thursday and wet practice conditions for both teams, the participants in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl seemed to enjoy their first day in Glynn County.

Both Middle Georgia of Cochran and East Central Community College of Decatur, Miss., arrived in town yesterday afternoon via police escort. The Warriors of MGC went through a brief workout at Glynn Academy, while the other Warriors from ECCC held a light practice at Jane Macon Field.

The teams were treated to a Low-Country Boil and entertainment last evening on Jekyll. The

pregame festivities were to resume today with breakfast and a tour of the Federal Law Enforcement Trainer Center. After a little fun at the Jekyll Island Golf Club, both teams were to hold practices and walk-throughs at Glynn County Stadium before going to a formal banquet tonight.

Both teams are having a blast right now, but they vow to be ready for war when they square off at 1 p.m. Saturday at GC Stadium in a match fittingly being billed as "The Battle of the Warriors."

"We're here for some fun and all that will happen at the banquets, but on the field it'll be all business," said MGC sophomore offensive right tackle Curtis Sanders of Turner County, who has verbally committed to Georgia, noting he chose UGA because he's always dreamed of playing between the hedges.

"We have to keep our focus on the game," said ECCC center

Marcus Holmes, a first team All-State selection. "We came down here to play and win, and we want to enjoy it at the same time."

MGC will enter the game unranked with an 8-3 record, having won seven straight games. A win could land the Georgia school a spot in the final junior college rankings. ECCC carries a 9-1 mark into tomorrow's tilt, and the Mississippi Warriors are ranked ninth in the nation. They were ranked fifth before losing to state champion Hinds Community College in the South Division championship game.

Last year, speed conquered size as the quick Georgia Military College Bulldogs spanked a big Lackawanna team of Pennsylvania 48-15 in the inaugural Golden Isles Bowl.

Tomorrow's outcome might be determined by who wins the war in the trenches, as are many football games. Both teams like to pound the ball at their oppo-

nents with lethal ground attacks, and the team that best controls the lines of scrimmage could emerge the victor late tomorrow afternoon.

MGC no doubt has the size advantage when comparing the interior lines. MGC's offensive front averages 264 pounds a man, while ECCC's defensive line averages 250 pounds a player.

MGC's defensive line averages 274 pounds a player, while ECCC's offensive line checks in at an average of 258 pounds a player.

"We probably match up pretty even as far as styles," said East Central defensive end/linebacker Jimmy Kincaid. "Both of us believe in the run, and the key to the game will be who can stop the run and who can run it."

ECCC coach Willie "Tenny" Coats has tremendous respect for the opposing Warriors, and

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# Golden Isles Bowl

Continued From Page 1B

he's especially concerned about their size across both lines.

"They block and execute well and have an outstanding running attack," he said. "They have good athletes on offense. They have a big, strong fullback (1,000-yard rusher Rod Sparks) who is hard to stop, and they have a big, fine offensive line.

"Defensively," he added, "They're big and strong, and play real aggressive."

His center says the ECCC offensive line is ready to accept the tough task given it by Middle Georgia.

"They have a lot of big guys on the defensive line and they have linebackers who can move," said Holmes. "It'll be a challenge for our offensive line, but I feel we'll be up to it."

Meanwhile, MGC coach Dennis Roland also has nothing but respect for the ECCC team.

"East Central is a hard-working, disciplined program, and we take pride in some of the same things they do," he said. "They've won a lot of close games to get here, and they're well-coached. Their coach is a legend, and their team is a reflection of his style of coaching.

"Their offensive line is obviously well-coached and real aggressive," he added. "Their big fullback (Steve Bradford) can run, their tailback (1,000-yard rusher Mack Pittman) is as good as anyone we've seen and their quarterback (Jake Kizziah) appears to be a winner. He does what it takes to do the job."

"We have to make sure we carry

out all our assignments on the option. They run it well," said MGC sophomore linebacker Antonio Cochran of Macon County, who also has committed to UGA.

Roland says ECCC's inside linebackers Kemba Bryant and Dejuan Clarke "are all over the field". He added that the defensive front is aggressive and the secondary is a fundamentally-sound bunch.

**"The key for us is to not make mistakes and not put ourselves in any holes, and we also have to control the line of scrimmage on offense," Roland noted. "The last seven games we've tried to focus on playing hard and with discipline."**

Said Coats on the keys for his team: "Defensively, we hope we can slow them down a little bit, and we've got to do a good job of tackling. That's important. We can't turn the ball over. We have to protect it. And, we have to have a good kicking game with no mistakes there."

Yes, all players and coaches are beginning to think pigskin as countdown to kickoff rolls on.



# Pittman leads ECCC to 7-6 bowl victory

Mack Pittman's seven-yard touchdown run followed by Shaun Walker's PAT late in first half action lifted East Central Community College to a 7-6 win over Middle Georgia College in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic held Saturday in Brunswick, Ga.

Pittman, a freshman running back, set a bowl record with 197 yards rushing on 32 carries and was presented the team most valuable player award by bowl officials during post-game activities.

The championship trophy was presented to ECCC co-captains Marcus Holmes (offense) of Louisville and Kemba Bryant (defense) of Atlanta, and head football coach Willie Coats.

Coach Coats said the bowl victory was "a great win for our kids who have worked very hard all year. We are now focusing our efforts on recruiting and looking forward to next year."

East Central, which completed the season with a 10-1 mark compared to Middle Georgia's 8-4 record, received two trophies following its bowl victory. One trophy is rotated year-to-year by the winning team, and the other award is kept on a permanent basis. Both trophies will be on display in the lobby of the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

Middle Georgia took an early lead over East Central when running back Rod Sparks found paydirt on a five-yard scamper with 12:12 left in the initial period. Chris Mullis' PAT was blocked by Neal Keeton of Morton, but an offside penalty against ECCC gave the "other Warriors" another attempt from just over a yard from the goalline. However, Middle Georgia was denied again as defensive back Ashanti Webb sacked quarterback Ashley Lewis for a loss.

The short scoring drive was set up by Deik Jackson's 72-yard return of an Al Hunt punt to the EC 10-yard-line.

Middle Georgia had a chance to extend its lead late in the first quarter when Hunt, again in punt formation, mishandled the snap from center and gave MG possession on the EC 16.

But key defensive plays

by Bryant, Jimmy Kincaid of Morton and Tyquan Taylor of Louisville forced Middle Georgia into a fourth and 20 situation in which it failed to convert.

East Central would later take the lead for good following Pittman's short run with 2:20 left before halftime. The 67-yard, five-play drive was set up by Forest product Joey Pinkston's interception on the ECCC 33-yard-line. Key plays during the drive included quarterback Jake Kizziah's 16-yard strike to Pittman at midfield, and Pittman's 20-yard run to the Middle Georgia 27. Kizziah hails from Tuscaloosa.

Both teams had opportunities to score in the second half. Walker, of Morton, barely missed a 32-yard field goal late in the third quarter, and Mullis' 37-yard effort with 4:16 left in the game.

Prior to Mullis' attempt, Middle Georgia had driven from its own four-yard-line to the EC 21 before being stopped once again by a stubborn EC defense, led by Kincaid and Taylor who combined efforts to stop running back Robert Carr for a five-yard loss on second and four from the EC 16. Middle Georgia threw an incomplete pass on third down and Mullis missed his field goal try on fourth down.

East Central then took possession on its 20, and proceeded to drive almost the length of the field behind runs by Pittman and fullback Steve Bradford, a product of Scott Central High School. Instead of scoring, East Central chose to run out the clock from the Middle Georgia four-yard-line.

East Central had 18 first downs compared to nine for Middle Georgia.

EC had 251 yards rushing and 99 passing for a total offensive performance of 350 yards.

Middle Georgia had 145 yards rushing and 18 passing for a 163-yard total.

CARTHAGINIAN  
12/12/96

MRVF-1



## JUCOs post outstanding years

Congratulations to the football programs at East Central and East Mississippi community colleges.

The East Central Warriors are back home following their 7-6 Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl victory over Middle Georgia on Saturday. The Warriors conclude their successful season with a 10-1 record and coach Willie Coats is looking to followup next year with similar success.

Meanwhile, the football program at East Mississippi continues to be on one of the best kept secrets in the state. Coach Tom Goode, his staff, and 14 members of the 1996 8-3 Lions led the North to a 21-11 victory over the South in the Junior College All-Star game.

In the past four years, more than 80 of East Mississippi's football players have signed with four-year colleges, and it looks like this year's class of sophomores will continue the tradition.

**MERIDIAN STAR**  
12/9/96

## Coats, Warriors receive awards

By **Mike Grubb**

The Meridian Star

To the victors go the spoils.

After posting its most successful season on the gridiron in almost 60 years, Willie Coats' East Central Community College Warriors are reaping the benefits of a 10-1 season. Along the way, the Warriors posted a 7-6 win against the Middle Georgia College Warriors in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic in Brunswick, Ga.



**Coats**

For his role in guiding the success of the Warrior football program, Coats was named the Co-Coach-of-the-Year by the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

Earning first-team all-state honors for ECCC on the offensive side of the football were center Marcus Holmes (5-11, 255) from Louisville and tackle Jason Nixon (6-3, 270) from Seminole, Ga. Holmes also earned the South Division's most valuable offensive lineman.

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**MERIDIAN STAR**  
12/17/96

## East Central

Continued from page 1B

Linebacker Kemba Bryant (6-1, 210) of Atlanta, Ga., headed up the list of ECCC first-team all-state selections on the defensive side of the football. Bryant, who registered 89 solo tackles and 40 assists, was named the South's most valuable defensive back. Cornerback Ashanti Webb (5-11, 180) from Tampa, Fla., was

also a first-team all-state pick.

Punter Al Hunt from Honea Path, S.C., was tabbed as the first-team all-state punter.

Freshman running back Mack Pittman (6-9, 235), who earned ECCC's most valuable player award, while rushing for a bowl record 197 yards, earned second-team all-state honors. For the season, the Panama City, Fla., native rushed for 1,139 yards and 10 touchdowns on 200 carries.

Guard Bo Thomas (6-5, 280)

from Morrow, Ga., and wide receiver Tim Livingston (5-10, 165) from Carthage were also named second-team all-state on the offensive side of the football.

Defensively, Kendrick Clancy (6-2, 235), a lineman from Tuscaloosa, Ala., earned second-team all-state honors. He led ECCC in sacks with nine.

Earning honorable mention all-state honors from ECCC were tackle Ryan Stokley,

tight end Undeon Hardy, fullback Steve Bradford, quarterback Jake Kizziah, wide receiver Calvin Williams, guard Russell McCann, defensive end Neal Keeton, linebacker Dejuan Clark, linebacker Jimmy Kincaid, cornerback Mark Thomas, noseguard Corey Hamler, defensive lineman Tyquan Taylor, strong safety Jeff Rowell, strong safety Xavier Thomas and free safety Joey Pinkston.



# ECCE set to fight in 'Battle of Warriors'

Bowl officials are calling it "The Battle of Warriors" when number-nine ranked East Central Community College of Decatur, Miss., and Middle Georgia College, located in Cochran, Ga., meet in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic on Saturday, Dec. 7. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. (EST) at Glynn County Stadium in Brunswick, Ga.

Ironically, both teams are nicknamed "Warriors," although the two schools' colors are different. East Central uniforms are black and old gold, while Middle Georgia will wear red, black and white.

East Central, led by second-year head coach Willie Coats, completed regular season action by compiling a 9-1

record, the team's best finish since 1939, when the Warriors went 10-0 and claimed the college's only state championship in the sport.

ECCE posted wins over Holmes (13-7), Northeast (36-7), Northwest (20-15), Itawamba (20-17), Pearl River (22-15), Gulf Coast (28-23), Jones (45-26), Copiah-Lincoln (20-14) and Southwest (41-6) before falling to eventual state champion Hinds (45-7) for the MACJC South Division title.

In recognition of the Warriors' successful '96 campaign, Coats was named "C-Coach of the Year," sharing honors with East Mississippi's Tom Goode. Other members of Coats' staff

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See Battle

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include Terry Underwood, Timmy Coats, Frederick Lyons and Jon Williams. In addition to Coats' honor, numerous Warrior football players received various post-season accolades.

The ECCE offense was rated near the top of the juco league, averaging 25 points per game,

2,429 rushing yards (242.9 average) and 867 passing yards (86.7).

Leading the offensive attack is freshman running back Mack Pittman who gained 1,139 yards on 200 carries and scored 13 touchdowns. Pittman, a former standout at Bay High School in Panama City, Fla., was named to the All-State second team.

Also having a producing season toting the pigskin is sophomore fullback Steven Bradford, a product of Scott Central High School, who amassed 705 yards on 127 attempts and scored seven touchdowns. Bradford was an honorable mention All-State selection.

Anchoring the offensive line is center Marcus Holmes of Louisville, recipient of the most outstanding offensive lineman award. Holmes was also named first team All-State.

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na, was also chosen to the All-State first team. He shares quarterback duties with sophomore Jake Kizziah of Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Defensively, East Central is led by sophomore linebacker Kemba Bryant of Atlanta, Ga., who recorded 89 solo tackles and 40 assists. Bryant, a first team All-State choice, was also named the division's most valuable defensive player. Freshman linebacker Dejuan Clark of Tuscaloosa also had an outstanding season as he registered 77 tackles, 27 assists and nine quarterback sacks. Clark was chosen second team All-State.

Also having a great year is freshman free safety Joey Pinkston of Forest, who led the state in interceptions with eight returns for 111 yards, a 15.8 yard average. Pinkston, an honorable mention All-State selection, also returned one interception

for a score.

Middle Georgia is led by head coach Dennis Roland who revitalized the football program in 1994, after the college had ceased offering the sport for 35 years.

This past season, the Warriors posted an 8-3 mark and registered victories over Benedict, S.C. (35-0), West Georgia JV (45-6), Georgia Military College (28-21), Hargrove Military in Virginia (46-6), Valdosta (Ga.) State JV (52-0), Kemper Military College in Missouri (21-3), Lackawanna Junior College in Pennsylvania (34-0), and Troy State University JV (27-6).

Middle Georgia's three losses came early in the season play against Kilgore (TX) Junior College (20-2), Tyler (TX) Junior College (31-14) and Nassau Community College located in New York (17-14).

Middle Georgia lists 99 play-

ers on its roster, with seven additional athletes classified as redshirts.

During '96 action, the MGC Warriors had 181 first downs, 3,184 yards rushing and 660 passing yards. Leading the offense is sophomore running back Rod Sparks of Augusta, Ga., who compiled 1,032 yards on 160 carries. He also scored six touchdowns.

Several activities are scheduled for the two Warrior squads prior to the bowl game, including a shrimp boil on the beach Thursday night; a championship-style breakfast, noon barbeque and awards banquet on Friday; pre-game meal, parade and post-game meal on Saturday.

Selected to lead parade fes-

tivities is the ECCC "Wall of Sound" Marching Band, directed by Thomas W. Carson and assistant Johnny May. The East Central musicians have also been chosen to perform the national anthem prior to kickoff.

For more information contact the Office of Public Information, ECCC, Decatur, MS 39327, phone 635-2111, ext. 242.



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## Georgia Bowl Classic features 'Battle of Warriors'

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Leading the offensive attack is freshman running back Mack

Pittman who gained 1139 yards on 20 carries and scored 13 touchdowns. Pittman, a former standout at Bay High School in Panama City, Florida, was named to the All-State second team.

Also having a productive season toting the pigskin is sophomore fullback Steven Bradford, a product of Scott Central High School, who amassed 705 yards on 127 attempts and scored seven touchdowns. Bradford was an honorable mention, All-State selection.

Anchoring the offensive line is center Marcus Holmes of Louisville, recipient of the most outstanding offensive lineman award. Holmes was also named first team All-State.

Punter Al Hunt was also among the league's best, as he averaged 40.38 yards per kick, with his longest effort traveling 69 yards. Hunt, a freshman from Honea Path, South Carolina, was also chosen to the All-State first team. He shares quarterback duties with sophomore Jake Kizziah of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

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**To Lead Warriors in Bowl Game...** These East Central Community College coaches will lead the Warriors in their bowl game against Middle Georgia Saturday in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic in Brunswick, Georgia. Kickoff is slated for noon and the game will be broadcast on WSSI-FM (98.3) in Carthage and WMYQ-FM (97.9) in Newton. Pictured above are: (kneeling) head coach Willie Coats and, (standing from left) Terry Underwood, Timmy Coats, Fredrick Lyons, Jon Williams and Juan Beckum. (EC Photo)



# **ECCC Warriors will depart Wednesday night for bowl game**

**DECATUR**--The public is invited to join ECCC personnel and students in giving the Warrior football coaches and players a championship send-off for this weekend's bowl game in Georgia.

The ECCC team plans to depart campus at 11:45 p.m. Wednesday, December 4, from the parking lot next to the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building. Fans and supporters are

invited to come out and be a part of cheering the Warriors on to victory in the Golden Isles Bowl Game set for Saturday. The Warriors are ranked ninth in the nation after a 9-1 regular season.

## **Georgia Bowl Classic Features "Battle of Warriors"**

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**Area Radio Stations to**

**Carry ECCC Bowl Game**  
Live coverage of East Central Community College's bowl matchup with Middle Georgia College will be provided by WSSI-FM (98.3) in Carthage and WMYQ-FM (97.9) in Newton, with veteran sportscaster Mike Goodwin handling play-by-play action.

**THE LAKE MESSENGER  
12/4/96**

## **Warriors win over Warriors...**

**DECATUR**--The East Central Community College Warriors were victorious Saturday against the Middle Georgia Warriors in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic.

Mack Pittman's seven-yard touchdown followed by Shaun Waler's PAT in the first half was all the EC Warriors needed for the victory for second year coach Willie Coats and staff.

**THE LAKE MESSENGER  
12/11/96**



## JR. COLLEGE FOOTBALL

was the South's offensive player of the game. Hunter scored the South's only touchdown on a 3-yard run late in the third quarter.

### East Central 7, Middle Georgia 6

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP) — Mack Pittman rushed for 197 yards, including a 7-yard touchdown run, as East Central Community College beat Middle Georgia 7-6 Saturday in the second Huddle House/Golden Isles Bowl Classic.

Pittman scored with about two minutes left in the first half. Shaun Walker kicked what proved to be the game-deciding extra point for East Central (10-1) of Decatur, Miss., ranked ninth in the latest national junior college poll.

Both teams missed second-half field goals. East Central was driving, and had the ball inside the Middle Georgia 5 when time ran out.

Middle Georgia (8-4), which is from Cochran, Ga., got its only score on Rod Sparks' 5-yard run in the first quarter. Middle Georgia failed on a two-point conversion try.

East Central's only loss was to eventual Mississippi junior college champion Hinds in the South Division championship game last month.

## STARKVILLE DAILY NEWS

## Warriors ready to go bowling

Bowl officials are calling it the "Battle of the Warriors" when the No. 9-ranked East Central Community College Warriors and the Middle Georgia College Warriors collide in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic at 1 p.m., Saturday at Glynn County Stadium in Brunswick, Ga.

Willie Coats' ECCC Warriors completed the regular season at 9-1, the team's best finish since 1939. That's when ECCC went 10-0 and claimed the college's only state championship in the sport. ECCC's only loss was to eventual state champion Hinds (45-7) for the MACJC South Division title.

ECCC's offense averaged 25 points per game. The Warriors rushed for 2,429 yards (242.9 yards per game) and 867 yards passing (86.7 ypg).

Freshman running back Mack Pittman leads the ECCC ground attack with 1,139 yards and 13 touchdowns. Fullback Steven Bradford from Scott Central High, rambed for 705 yards and seven touchdowns on 127 carries.

— From staff reports

MERIDIAN STAR  
12/2/96

MRVF-1

## EAST CENTRAL

Women  
(4-4)

Men  
(8-2)

### January

- 3 Delgado (women only)
- 4 Mississippi Delta
- 7 at Gulf Coast
- 9 at Holmes
- 11 at Southern University-Shreveport
- 13 Hinds
- 16 Jones
- 21 at Co-Lin
- 23 at Pearl River
- 27 Southwest
- 30 Gulf Coast

### February

- 3 Holmes
- 6 at Hinds
- 8 Southern University-Shreveport
- 10 at Jones
- 13 Co-Lin
- 17-20 South State Tour. at Co-Lin
- 24-25 State Tournament

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT  
12/25/96

## ECCC Warriors - Bowl Game in Georgia

The public is invited to Join East Central Community College personnel and students in giving the Warrior football coaches and players a championship send-off for this weekend's bowl game in Georgia.

The ECCC team plans to depart campus at 11:45 p.m. Wednesday, December 4, from the parking lot next to the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

Ranked ninth in the nation, the 9-1 Warriors will meet Middle

Georgia College, which sports an 8-3 mark, in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic on Saturday, December 7. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. (EST) at Glynn County Stadium in Brunswick, Georgia.

Live coverage of the bowl matchup will be provided by WSSI-FM (98.3) in Carthage and WMYQ-FM (97.9) in Newton, featuring veteran sportscaster Mike Goodwin handling play-by-play action.

THE NEWTON RECORD  
12/4/96



# ECCC wins over Middle Georgia 7-6

Mack Pittman's seven-yard touchdown run followed by Shaun Walker's PAT late in the first half action lifted East Central Community College to a 7-6 win over Middle Georgia College in the second annual huddle house Golden Isles Bowl Classic held recently in Brunswick, Ga. The bowl matchup was billed as the "Battle of Warriors" as each team has the same mascot.

Pittman, a freshman running back from Panama City, Fla., set a bowl record with 197 yards rushing on 32 carries and was presented the team most valuable player award by bowl officials during post-game activities. The championship trophy was presented to ECCC co-captains Marcus Holmes (offense) of Louisville and Kemba Bryant (defense) of Atlanta, Ga., and head football coach Willie Coats. Coach Coats said the bowl victory is "a great win for our kids who have worked very hard all year. We are not focusing our efforts on

recruiting and looking forward to next year."

East Central, which completed the season with a 10-1 mark compared to Middle Georgia's 8-4 record, received two trophies following its bowl victory. One trophy is rotated year-to-year by the winning team, and the other award is kept on a permanent basis. Both trophies will be on display in the lobby of the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

Middle Georgia took an early lead over East Central when running back Rod Sparks found paydirt on a five-yard scamper with 12:12 left in the initial period. Chris Mullis' PAT was blocked by Neal Keeton of Morton but an offside penalty against ECCC gave the "other Warriors" another attempt from just over a yard from the goal line. However, Middle Georgia was denied again as defensive back Ashanti Webb of Tampa, Fla., sacked quarterback Ashley

Lewis for a loss, leading the way for East Central to take the lead with a touchdown and extra point.

The short scoring drive was set up by Deik Jackson's 72-yard return of an Al Hurt punt to the EC 10-yard-line.

Middle Georgia had a chance to extend its lead late in the first quarter when Hunt, again in punt formation, mishandled the snap from center and gave MG possession on the EC 16. But key defensive plays by Bryant, Jimmy Kincaid of Morton and Tyquan Taylor of Louisville forced Middle Georgia into a fourth and 20 situation from which it failed to convert a score.

East Central would later take the lead for good following Pittman's short run with 2:20 left before halftime. The 67-yard, five-play drive was set up by Forest product Joey Pinkston's interception on the ECCC 33-yard-line. Key plays during the drive included quarterback Jake

Kizziah's 16-yard strike to Pittman at midfield, and Pittman's 20-yard run to the Middle Georgia 27. Kizziah hails from Tuscaloosa.

Both teams had opportunities to score in the second half. Walker, of Morton, barely missed a 32-yard field goal late in the third quarter, and Mullis' 37-yard effort with 4:16 left in the game was also not successful.

Prior to Mullis' attempt, Middle Georgia had driven from its own four-yard-line to the EC 21 before being stopped once again by a stubborn EC defense, led by Kincaid and Taylor who combined efforts to stop running back Robert Carr for a five-yard loss on second and four from the EC 16. Middle Georgia threw an incomplete pass on third down and Mullis missed his field goal try on fourth down.

East Central then took possession on its 20, and proceeded to drive

almost the length of the field behind runs by Pittman and fullback Steve Bradford, a product of Scott Central High School. Instead of scoring, East Central chose to run out the clock from the Middle Georgia four-yard-line.

East Central had 18 first downs

compared to nine for Middle Georgia.

EC had 251 yards rushing and 99 passing for a total offensive performance of 350 yards.

Middle Georgia had 145 yards rushing and 18 passing for a 163-yard total.

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL  
12/25/96

MRVF-1



# East Central CC preps for Georgia bowl game

CARTHAGINIAN  
12/5/96

Bowl officials are calling it "The Battle of Warriors" when number-nine ranked East Central Community College of Decatur, and Middle Georgia College, located in Cochran, meet in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic on Saturday, Dec. 7. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. (EST) at Glynn County Stadium in Brunswick, Ga.

Ironically, both teams are nicknamed "Warriors," although school colors differ at each college. East Central uniforms are black and old gold, while Middle Georgia will wear red, black and white.

East Central, led by second-year head coach Willie Coats, completed regular season action by compiling a 9-1 record, the team's best finish since 1939, when the Warriors went 10-0 and claimed the college's only state championship in the sport.

ECCC posted wins over Holmes (13-7), Northeast (36-7), Northwest (20-15), Itawamba (20-17), Pearl River (22-15), Gulf Coast (28-23), Jones (45-26), Copiah-Lincoln (20-14) and Southwest (41-6), before falling to eventual state champion Hinds (45-7) for the MACJC South Division title.

In recognition of the Warriors' successful '96 campaign, Coats was named "Co-Coach of the Year," sharing honors with East Mississippi's Tom Goode.

Other members of Coats' staff include Terry Underwood, Timmy Coats, Frederick Lyons and Jon Williams. In addition to Coats' honor, numerous Warrior football players received various post-season accolades.

The ECCC offense was rated near the top of the juco league, averaging 25 points per game, 2,429 rushing yards (242.9 average) and 867 passing yards (86.7).

Leading the offensive attack is freshman running back Mack Pittman who gained 1,139 yards on 20 carries and scored 13 touchdowns. Pittman, a former standout at Bay High School in Panama City, Fla. was named to the All-State second team.

Also having a productive season toting the pigskin is sophomore fullback Steven Bradford, a product of Scott Central High School, who amassed 705 yards

on 127 attempts and scored seven touchdowns. Bradford was an honorable mention All-State selection.

Anchoring the offensive line is center Marcus Holmes of Louisville, recipient of the most outstanding offensive lineman award. Holmes was also named first team All-State.

Punter Al Hunt was also among the league's best, as he averaged 40.38 yards per kick, with his longest effort traveling 69 yards. Hunt, a freshman from Honea Path, S.C., was also chosen to the All-State first team. He shares quarterback duties with sophomore Jake Kizziah of Tuscaloosa.

Defensively, East Central is led by sophomore linebacker Kemba Bryant of Atlanta, who recorded 89 solo tackles and 40 assists. Bryant, a first team All-State choice, was also named the division's most valuable defensive player.

Freshman linebacker Dejuan Clark of Tuscaloosa also had an outstanding season as he registered 77 tackles, 27 assists and nine quarterback sacks. Clancy was chosen second team All-State.

Also having a great year is freshman free safety Joey Pinkston of Forest, who led the state in interceptions with eight returns for 111 yards, a 15.8 yard average. Pinkston, an honorable mention All-State selection, also returned one interception for a score.

Middle Georgia is led by head coach Dennis Roland who revitalized the football program in 1994, after the college had ceased offering the sport for 35 years.

This past season, the Warriors posted an 8-3 mark and registered victories over Benedict, S.C. (35-0), West Georgia JV (45-6), Georgia Military College (28-21), Hargrove Military in Virginia (46-6), Valdosta (Ga.) State JV (52-0), Kemper Military College in Missouri (21-3), Lackawanna Junior College in Pennsylvania (34-0) and Troy State University JV (27-6).

Middle Georgia's three losses came early in the season play against Kilgore (TX) Junior College (20-2), Tyler (TX) Junior College (31-14) and Nassau Community College located in

New York (17-14).

Middle Georgia lists 99 players on its roster, with seven additional athletes classified as redshirts.

During '96 action, the MGC Warriors had 181 first downs, 3,184 yards rushing and 660 passing yards. Leading the offense is sophomore running back Rod Sparks of Augusta, Ga., who compiled 1,032 yards on 160 carries. He also scored six touchdowns.

Several activities are scheduled for the two Warrior squads prior to the bowl game, including a shrimp boil on the beach Thursday night; a championship-style breakfast, noon barbeque and awards banquet on Friday; pre-game meal, parade and post-game meal on Saturday.

Selected to lead parade festivities is the ECCC "Wall O' Sound" Marching Band, directed by Thomas W. Carson and assistant Johnny May. The East Central musicians have also been chosen to perform the national anthem prior to kickoff.

For more information contact the Office of Public Information, telephone 635-2111, ext. 242.



# Pittman leads ECCC to 7-6 Bowl victory

MRVF-1

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The short scoring drive was set up by Deik Jackson's 72-yard return of an Al Hunt punt to the EC 10-yard-line.

Middle Georgia had a chance to extend its lead late in the first quarter when Hunt, again in punt formation, mishandled the snap from center and gave MG possession on the EC 16. But key defensive plays by Bryant, Jimmy Kincaid of Morton and Tyquan Taylor of Louisville forced Middle Georgia into a fourth and 20 situation from which it failed to convert a score.

East Central would later take the lead for good following Pittman's short run with 2:20 left before halftime. The 67-yard, five-play drive was set up by Forest product Joey Pinkston's interception on the ECCC 33-yard-line. Key plays during the drive included quarterback Jake Kizziah's 16-yard strike to Pittman at midfield, and

Pittman's 20-yard run to the Middle Georgia 27. Kizziah hails from Tuscaloosa.

Both teams had opportunities to score in the second half. Walker, of Morton, barely missed a 32-yard field goal late in the third quarter, and Mullis' 37-yard effort with 4:16 left in the game was also not successful.

Prior to Mullis' attempt, Middle Georgia had driven from its own four-yard-line to the EC 21 before being stopped once again by a stubborn EC defense, led by Kincaid and Taylor who combined efforts to stop running back Robert Carr for a five-yard loss on second and four from the EC 16. Middle Georgia threw an incomplete pass on third down and Mullis missed his field goal try on fourth down.

East Central then took possession on its 20, and proceeded to drive almost the length of the field behind runs by Pittman and fullback Steve Bradford, a product of Scott Central High School. Instead of scoring, East Central chose to run out the clock from the Middle Georgia four-yard line.

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EC had 251 yards rushing and 99 passing for a total offensive performance of 350 yards.

Middle Georgia had 145 yards rushing and 18 passing for a 163-yard total.



**Warriors Win Bowl Game...** East Central Community College head coach Willie Coats (center) poses with his team and the championship trophy of the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl played in Brunswick, Georgia, Saturday. EC defeated Middle Georgia College 7-6 to cap their season with a 10-1 record. (EC Photo)

THE UNION APPEAL  
12/11/96



# EC<sup>MRVF-1</sup>CCC takes 7-6 win on Shaun Walker kick

Decatur- Mack Pittman's seven-yard touchdown run followed by Shaun Walker's PAT late in first half action lifted East Central Community College to a 7-6 win over Middle Georgia in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic held Saturday in Brunswick, Georgia. The bowl matchup was billed as the "Battle of the Warriors" as each team has the same mascot.

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## Warriors Have Won 7 Straight

# Middle Georgia Enters Golden Isles Bowl on Hot Streak

By MURRAY POOLE  
News Sports Editor

After dropping three of their first four contests this fall, a post-season bowl game was the furthest thing from the Middle Georgia College Warriors' minds.

Indeed, at that early juncture of the 1996 football campaign, the riders of Coach Dennis Roland were just hoping to bounce back and somehow capture a winning season.

But now, look again! After that early disastrous start, the Cochran team has reeled off seven consecutive victories. Middle Georgia will enter Saturday's second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic here sporting an 8-3 season record.

The Warriors are ranked 23rd in the nation in the Junior College Gridwire Poll out of California while their Golden Isles Bowl opponent, East Central Community College of Decatur, Miss., is ranked 21st in that poll. However, in the final NJCAA regular season poll, East Central was ranked as the No. 9 juco team in America.

After kicking off the 1996 season with a tough 21-20 loss to Kilgore (Tex.) JC, Middle Georgia rebounded to paste Benedict (SC) by 35-0. However, on consecutive weekends, the Warriors then went down to Tyler (Tex.) JC by 31-14 and to a powerful Nassau, N.Y. team by 17-14.

But as MGC moved against the West Georgia Junior Varsity team the following week, things began to fall into place for the Warriors. They demolished the Braves JV team by 45-6 and that set the stage for the big rival meeting with Georgia Military College in Milledgeville.

The Bulldogs, of course, were the winners of the inaugural Golden Isles Bowl, running roughshod over Lackawanna College (Pa.) by 48-15 at Glynn County Stadium last December.

In a hard-fought ballgame, the Warriors would prevail over Georgia Military this time by 28-21. That big victory evened Middle Georgia's season record at 3-3 and the Warriors then went on to cap the season with five additional wins....46-6 over Hargrave Military (Va.), 52-0 over the Valdosta State Junior Varsity, 21-3 over Kemper Military (Mo.), 34-0 over Lackawanna and then, 27-6 over the Troy State Junior Varsity in the season finale.

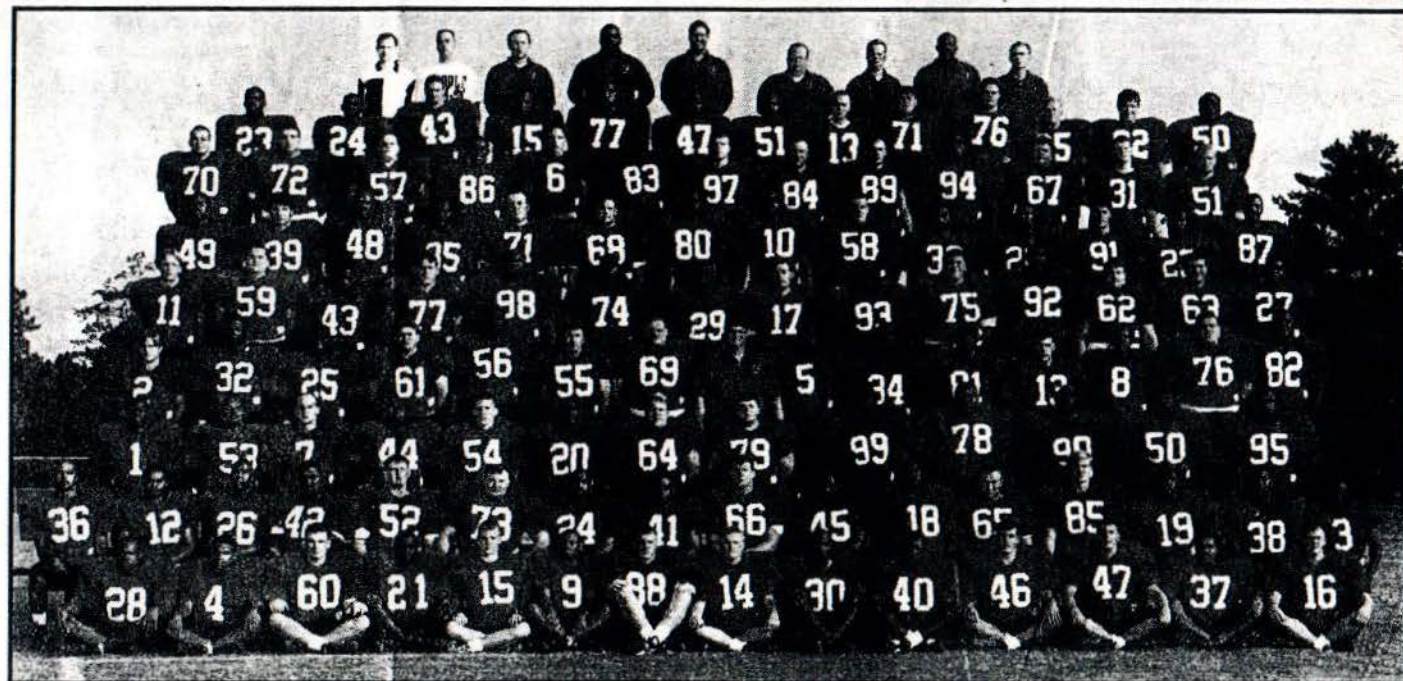
"First of all, we're just excited to be coming to Brunswick," said MGC coach Roland. "It's a great opportunity for us and something our players want to do. For us to be 1-3 at one point and then turn it around and win seven in a row, I think it shows what kind of character this team's got," he said.

"I think the Georgia Military game was the turning point of our season," Roland declared. "In that game, we intercepted six passes and offensively, we rushed for 400 yards.

"Offensively, we're pretty much a run-oriented team," Roland informed. "Defensively, we've been playing tremendous football and offensively, we've been doing what it takes to win ballgames. We've just been trying to do what we're capable of doing...taking one game at a time," he added.

Its football program now in its third year of existence, Middle Georgia lost 20 starters off last season's 10-2 team. That Warrior edition toppled Hutchinson CC (Kan.) by 42-37 in the Mineral Water Bowl in Excelsior Springs, Mo., after rallying from a 27-7 deficit. That victory enabled MGC to finish with a 7th place national ranking.

"But this team has really matured and come together," Roland said. "And at this point, I think it is the equal—maybe even better—of last year's team. Our schedule was very



## Middle Georgia Set for Golden Isles Bowl

The Middle Georgia College Warriors, pictured above, are the host team for the 2nd Annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic, coming up Saturday at Glynn County Stadium. With their 8-3 season record, the Warriors will be going against East Central Community College of Decatur, Miss. Also known as the Warriors, East Central will bring a 9-1 record into the game. (Special Photo to The News)

tough this season, especially early in the year. After we struggled early, we made a few changes at the quarterback and several other positions and were able to get it going," he said.

Some of the Warrior offensive leaders this season are sophomore fullback Rod Sparks (6-2, 260), who is MGC's leading rusher with over 1,000 yards; sophomore offensive tackle Curtis Sanders (6-6, 290), a Turner County product who today was to commit to play for the University of Georgia; sophomore center Clint Curl (6-0, 270); quarterbacks Chris Howard (6-5, 190, Fr.) and George Brown (5-9, 170, Fr.) and wide receiver

Abdul Davis (6-1, 202, Soph.). Though Howard will likely open at quarterback, Roland says he and Brown play on a rotation system.

Defensively, the Warriors are led by sophomore inside linebacker Antonio Cochran, who has also committed to play for Jim Donnan's Georgia Bulldogs next season. Cochran is a 6-5, 275-pound product of Macon County who will be moved to defensive end at UGA.

Other MGC defensive stalwarts include sophomore cornerback VonKeith Spencer (5-10, 171), who has intercepted 14 passes this season, and Jarrett Jones, a 6-3, 290-pound sopho-

more defensive tackle.

Roland knows his team will have its hands full Saturday with the 9-1 East Central CC team.

"They are a very disciplined football team, with very good athletes," he said. "They play hard and are a very opportunistic type of team. Hopefully, we won't give them many opportunities. Like us, they're predominantly a running team," said Roland.

The Middle Georgia coach said that former Glynn Academy standout Jay Bridgers, a 6-3, 310-pound offensive tackle, is being redshirted by the Warriors this season. "Jay's doing well and will be ready to help us next season," he said.

Other area players on the MGC roster are former Camden County standout Phillip Wilson—who Roland says is doing a great job as the starting strong safety—and ex-Wayne County player Justin Davis, a key backup/at offensive guard and tackle who also plays on the special teams.

Tickets to Saturday's bowl game remain on sale at the Glynn County Schools Athletic Department, 267-4100. They are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students in advance. All tickets at the gate will be \$10.

All proceeds from the game will go to benefit the Glynn County middle schools' athletic programs.



The Meridian STAR  
Sunday December 8, 1996

MRVF-1

# ECCC Warriors close season with win, 10-1 record

By Stan Grubb

The Meridian Star

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — It won't go down in East Central Community College football history as "The Drives," since none resulted in points.

But maybe they'll preserve them for the ages as "ECCC's Drives."

Three significant drives?

They were 62, 56 and 76 yards — 12, 11 and seven plays. The figures added up to exactly 17 minutes of game time and were a major reason why the East Central Warriors captured a 7-6 win over Middle Georgia in Saturday's Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic.

"I'm so delighted for our guys today," ECCC head coach Willie Coats said. "The patience of our coaches and the overall performance of these kids came out in the end. It wasn't a thing of beauty, but we played great on the line of scrimmage."

East Central took the game and MGC head on throughout the second half on the first two drives, which took up more than 12 minutes.

sion lasted only three plays, East Central's Al Hunt was forced to punt. Middle Georgia's Deik Jackson hauled in the kick, ran toward the middle of the field, the reversed and darted up the sideline.

Jackson picked up key blocks and raced 72 yards down to the ECCC 10-yard line. His punt return, which was the longest in the bowl's history, was one of three marks that fell on the day.

Two plays later, MGC full-back Rod Sparks bolted through the middle for a five-yard touchdown. MGC missed the point after, but got another chance due to an ECCC penalty. The second time, Middle Georgia opted to try for two, but ECCC's Tyquan Taylor dropped George Brown, holding MGC to a 6-0 advantage.

East Central safety Joey Pinkston set up his team's go-ahead score by stepping in front of a Brown aerial at the ECCC 33 with 4:38 to play in the second quarter.

From there, Pittman burst out on runs of 16 and 18 yards, taking the Warriors into MGC territory. A face mask penalty allowed ECCC to reach the Middle Georgia 27.

ECCC's dominating ground game didn't result in points on the scoreboard — although one resulted in a missed 32-yard field goal attempt — but the bruising runs of Mack Pittman and Steve Bradford began to take a heavy toll on the smaller MGC defenders.

The ECCC running attack also protected a slim one-point margin handed to the Warriors by Pittman, who twisted through MGC defenders on a seven-yard run in the closing minute of the first half. It capped a five-play, 67-yard scoring drive.

"It was perhaps three, counting the drive to close out the contest, of the biggest marches this team's had," said Bradford, who played extensively despite a severely sprained ankle. "We played solidly on defense as well. It was a good effort and a good win."

The victory completes ECCC's season at 10-1. It marks the first tie since 1939 the ninth-ranked Warriors have won in double figures in a season.

As has been the case all year for ECCC, the running game told the story. But it would be Middle Georgia who would strike first.

After the game initial posses-

Pittman closed out the drive three plays later ECCC to the locker room out in front, 7-6.

Pittman, who accounted for 67 of his team's 87 rushing yards in the first half, added to his record-setting afternoon in the second half with 130 more. The result was a 197-yard total and the game's Most Valuable Player Award.

The game came down to a pair of drives — one by each team. With 8:03 to play, Hunt pinned MGC back at its own 4-yard line after an 11-play drive by ECCC was stalled. Middle Georgia proceeded to move the ball toward midfield on runs by Sparks and Robert Carr before Brown connected with Abdul Davis for an 18-yard pick-up.

Brown then kept on the option, ducked inside a mass of linemen and escaped. He darted up field on a record-setting 48-yard run down to the ECCC 22. MGC would reach the East Central 15, before a pair of sacks forced a 37-yard field goal attempt that was no good.

East Central took over with 4:10 to play and marched 76 yards down to the MGC 4, before the game clock expired.





Paula Merritt/The Meridian Star

**Mack Pittman** of East Central was the game's MVP.

## Pittman credits line for yardage

By **Stan Grubb**

The Meridian Star

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — East Central Community College running back Mack Pittman has always had a love of history. Not reading it, but making it.

And Saturday, Pittman and the Warriors put their indelible and historic stamp on the Huddle House-Golden Isle Bowl Classic.

The game between East Central and Middle Georgia College turned into a war in the trenches. But contrary to local declarations by the host squad, Pittman and his trenchmen dominated the line of scrimmage.

"We didn't do it much early in the game, but it picked up as we went along," Pittman said. "In the second quarter, and much of the third, I thought our guys up front did a fantastic job of driving off the football, giving me and the other backs lanes to run."

Pittman made that abundantly clear in the latter stages of the first half by ripping off large chunks of yardage, including runs of 18, 14 and 12 yards on his team's lone scoring drive shortly before intermission. His



### HUDDLE HOUSE GOLDEN ISLES BOWL

record-setting performance was even more masterful in the second half.

It was then Pittman and the line shined the brightest. The 5-foot-9 freshman almost single-handedly led the Warriors on key second half drives and capped the outing averaging 12 yards per carry on ECCC's game-ending, fourth quarter drive.

The game's Most Valuable Player chalked up 197 yards on 32 carries.

Numbers were only part of the story for ECCC's line play. In addition to Pittman's high rushing mark, the likes of tackles Ryan Stokley (257), Jason Nixon (275), guards Russell McCann (254) and Bo Thomas (280) along with center Demarcus Holmes, paved the way for its talented offense to methodically chew up the clock and wear down Middle Georgia.

*The Meridian  
STAR*

*Sunday*

*December 8,  
1996*

*mRVF-1*



# Sports

## POOLE SHOTS

By MURRAY POOLE  
News Sports Editor



### Middle School Kids Are Real Winners in Golden Isles Bowl Game Here

Not having seen either team play this season, it's pretty difficult to tab a winner in tomorrow's Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl battle out at Glynn County Stadium.

Both the East Central Community College Warriors and Middle Georgia College Warriors are bringing strong football teams to the Golden Isles and all signs are pointing to a close, hard-fought ball game...unlike the scenario that unfolded in last year's inaugural bowl game here.

While the Decatur, Miss. gridmen of coach Willie Coats will take the field sporting a 9-1 season record and a No. 9 NJCAA national ranking, the Middle Georgia squad enters the tilt armed with an 8-3 season worksheet.

While East Central likely rates a slight favorite in this one, I'm most impressed with the 7-game win string that coach Dennis Roland's squad carts into tomorrow's skirmish.

Georgia Military College played truly outstanding football as the host team in last year's initial bowl game, and I'm looking for the Warriors from Cochran to do the same tomorrow. But, most assuredly, they will have their hands full with these other Warriors from Mississippi. Middle Georgia gets a shaky 28-24 nod to beat East Central here tomorrow afternoon.

Regardless of the outcome, however, the real winners in this football game—that is, if a good crowd turns out to support it—will be the kids of all the middle schools here in Glynn County. All of the proceeds will go to finance their athletic programs and, in addition to providing wholesome activities for the players, bands and cheerleaders, these middle schools also serve as a feeder system for the Glynn Academy and Brunswick High football programs.

Already, after just one full season of middle school football, the BHS and GA programs are reaping some dividends. A number of the ex-Jane Macon, Glynn Middle and Risley Middle players made vital contributions to the Pirates and Terrors' programs as freshmen this fall, most on the 9th grade and Junior Varsity level but several on the high school varsity teams as well.

How do you think Valdosta High School is able to come up with the powerhouses that it does, each and every year? It's because of the Wildcats' tremendous feeder system, through all of the junior high football programs they have over in Lowndes County.

Needless to say, your support is needed tomorrow at Glynn County Stadium.



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P.2

•If Tuesday night's opening games were any indication, we can expect an exciting high school basketball season this winter.

Despite losing their all-time leading scorer, Oreeta Mitchell, the Glynn Academy Lady Terrors of Theresa Adams displayed outstanding scoring balance and strength in their win over the cross-town rival BHS Lady Pirates. And, certainly, in their opening win over the Pirates, the Red Terror boys of new mentor Dan Moore looked 200 percent improved over the struggling GA outfits of the past three years. Also under new coach Warren Lawrence, the Pirates played surprisingly well in their '96-97 debut, especially considering the fact that most of the BHS stalwarts had only a couple days practice under their belts after playing in the state football playoffs. The Lady Pirates of Varnell Porter also showed they have the potential to be a factor in the region this season...once they get their entire squad suited up.

The young Frederica Academy teams of Jim Kay and Ike Podlesny have struggled out of the gate a bit but as the Knights and Lady Knights acquire much-needed playing experience, they could be very competitive come tournament time. The Christian Renewal Academy boys of Steve Waters are off to a 5-1 start while the young Lady Eagles of Amy Stapleton should continue to improve as the season goes along.

And out at Coastal Georgia Community College—the former Brunswick College—the Mariners of Gerald Cox are fielding their best potential team in many a season. Although they had their record evened at 4-4 with last night's crushing loss to defending GJCAA champ Atlanta Metro (see page 3-B), the Mariners have enough talent and experience to make another strong bid for the state tournament crown and the subsequent trip to the nationals.

•What kind of potential did Charlton County's Champ Bailey flash as a freshman cornerback at Georgia this football season?....So much that observers close to the UGA scene are touting Bailey as a future All-American. This, from Bulldog head coach Jim Donnan: "Champ Bailey is one of the best pure athletes I've ever coached, living or dead. The guy can high jump 6-9 and runs like a blur. I'm braggin' on him, and I don't brag on somebody unless I believe it, but that guy there is a legitimate can't-miss player. It doesn't take a real rocket scientist to figure that. We might do a little Deion Sanders and try Bailey as a receiver or kick returner next season," Donnan said.

•On the job since June, new Georgia baseball coach Robert Sapp started the real task of rebuilding the diamond Dogs' arsenal by signing 12 players. Sapp's first group of signees consists of seven standouts from Georgia, two from Florida and one each from Maryland, Michigan and New York, including three of seven pitchers standing 6-foot-5. "It was imperative we have a solid recruiting class for 1998," said Sapp, the former Middle Georgia College coach and Brunswick native. "The large class includes several players who might be drafted so we may lose some. We recruited nationwide as shown by players from as far away as Michigan and down to Florida. Assistant coaches Randy Mazey and David Perno put in a lot of hard work to help bring in this class," related Sapp. "We signed some excellent hitters along with a lot of pitching and a catcher with experience." Among the hurlers inked by Sapp was Shaun Helmey, the former Effingham County and now South Effingham player. The 6-0, 185-pound Helmey, South Effingham's football quarterback, had a 3-3 mound record last season at EC, with a 3.93 ERA and 56 strikeouts in 42.2 innings.

•In Saturday night's SEC Championship game in Atlanta, I make the Florida Gators just a slim pick by a field goal, say 24-21, over the Alabama Crimson Tide, which leads the country in pass defense. That's because of the tenuous situation of the Gators' offensive line. But look for Spurrier's guys to hold off Alabama—which will be playing for the last time under the likable Gene Stallings—and thereby deliver Florida its fourth consecutive SEC title. In the noteworthy state high school playoff games, I go with Lowndes County over the Benedictine Cadets tonight by 31-21 in Savannah and I go with the Valdosta Wildcats to trim the Colquitt County Packers by 24-17 in their big rematch in Valdosta. The 11-1 BC Cadets of Tommy Brackett have been a very surprising football team this season, especially so in their big upset win over No. 2 LaGrange last week, but the huge Cadets won't be able to cope with Lowndes' super passer, Brandon Cowart, and its super receiver, C.J. Lofton, the Region 1-A AAAA Player of the Year, this evening. And after losing to the Packers for the fifth straight time in the regular season matchup, Mike O'Brien's 'Dosta Wildcats have been playing at peak performance the last three to four weeks and are tabbed to end their Moultrie jinx tonight at Bazemore-Hyder Stadium. Also, I ride with an unbeaten, top-ranked Macon County team to nip the Charlton



## It's a Battle of Warriors in Golden Isles Bowl

# Time for Some Football!

By KEVIN PRICE  
Assistant Sports Editor

Despite some bus problems for Middle Georgia Thursday and wet practice conditions for both teams, the participants in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl seemed to enjoy their first day in Glynn County.

Both Middle Georgia of Cochran and East Central Community College of Decatur, Miss., arrived in town yesterday afternoon via police escort. The Warriors of MGC went through a brief workout at Glynn Academy, while the other Warriors from ECCC held a light practice at Jane Macon Field.

The teams were treated to a Low-Country Boil and entertainment last evening on Jekyll. The

pregame festivities were to resume today with breakfast and a tour of the Federal Law Enforcement Trainer Center. After a little fun at the Jekyll Island Golf Club, both teams were to hold practices and walk-throughs at Glynn County Stadium before going to a formal banquet tonight.

Both teams are having a blast right now, but they vow to be ready for war when they square off at 1 p.m. Saturday at GC Stadium in a match fittingly being billed as "The Battle of the Warriors."

"We're here for some fun and all that will happen at the banquets, but on the field it'll be all business," said MGC sophomore offensive right tackle Curtis Sanders of Turner County, who has verbally committed to Georgia, noting he chose UGA because he's always dreamed of playing between the hedges.

"We have to keep our focus on the game," said ECCC center

Marcus Holmes, a first team All-State selection. "We came down here to play and win, and we want to enjoy it at the same time."

MGC will enter the game unranked with an 8-3 record, having won seven straight games. A win could land the Georgia school a spot in the final junior college rankings. ECCC carries a 9-1 mark into tomorrow's tilt, and the Mississippi Warriors are ranked ninth in the nation. They were ranked fifth before losing to state champion Hinds Community College in the South Division championship game.

Last year, speed conquered size as the quick Georgia Military College Bulldogs spanked a big Lackawanna team of Pennsylvania 48-15 in the inaugural Golden Isles Bowl.

Tomorrow's outcome might be determined by who wins the war in the trenches, as are many football games. Both teams like to pound the ball at their oppo-

nents with lethal ground attacks, and the team that best controls the lines of scrimmage could emerge the victor late tomorrow afternoon.

MGC no doubt has the size advantage when comparing the interior lines. MGC's offensive front averages 264 pounds a man, while ECCC's defensive line averages 250 pounds a player.

MGC's defensive line averages 274 pounds a player, while ECCC's offensive line checks in at an average of 258 pounds a player.

"We probably match up pretty even as far as styles," said East Central defensive end/linebacker Jimmy Kincaid. "Both of us believe in the run, and the key to the game will be who can stop the run and who can run it."

ECCC coach Willie "Tenny" Coats has tremendous respect for the opposing Warriors, and

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## Golden Isles Bowl

Continued From Page 1B

he's especially concerned about their size across both lines.

"They block and execute well and have an outstanding running attack," he said. "They have good athletes on offense. They have a big, strong fullback (1,000-yard rusher Rod Sparks) who is hard to stop, and they have a big, fine offensive line.

"Defensively," he added, "They're big and strong, and play real aggressive."

His center says the ECCC offensive line is ready to accept the tough task given it by Middle Georgia.

"They have a lot of big guys on the defensive line and they have linebackers who can move," said Holmes. "It'll be a challenge for our offensive line, but I feel we'll be up to it."

Meanwhile, MGC coach Dennis Roland also has nothing but respect for the ECCC team.

"East Central is a hard-working, disciplined program, and we take pride in some of the same things they do," he said. "They've won a lot of close games to get here, and they're well-coached. Their coach is a legend, and their team is a reflection of his style of coaching.

"Their offensive line is obviously well-coached and real aggressive," he added. "Their big fullback (Steve Bradford) can run, their tailback (1,000-yard rusher Mack Pittman) is as good as anyone we've seen and their quarterback (Jake Kizziah) appears to be a winner. He does what it takes to do the job."

"We have to make sure we carry

out all our assignments on the option. They run it well," said MGC sophomore linebacker Antonio Cochran of Macon County, who also has committed to UGA.

Roland says ECCC's inside linebackers Kemba Bryant and Dejuan Clarke "are all over the field". He added that the defensive front is aggressive and the secondary is a fundamentally-sound bunch.

**"The key for us is to not make mistakes and not put ourselves in any holes, and we also have to control the line of scrimmage on offense,"** Roland noted. **"The last seven games we've tried to focus on playing hard and with discipline."**

Said Coats on the keys for his team: "Defensively, we hope we can slow them down a little bit, and we've got to do a good job of tackling. That's important. We can't turn the ball over. We have to protect it. And, we have to have a good kicking game with no mistakes there."

Yes, all players and coaches are beginning to think pigskin as countdown to kickoff rolls on.



**EAST CENTRAL STARTERS**  
(OFFENSE)

SE—Tim Livingston (170—Soph.)  
LT—Ryan Stokley (257—Soph.)  
LG—Russell McCann (244—Soph.)  
C—Marcus Holmes (256—Soph.)  
RG—Bo Thomas (280—Fresh.)  
RT—Jason Nixon (275—Fresh.)  
TE—Undeon Hardy (237—Fresh.)  
QB—Jake Kizziah (205—Soph.)  
FB—Steve Bradford (226—Soph.) or  
Derrell Reed (205—Soph.)  
TB—Mack Pittman (235—Fresh.)  
FL—Calvin Williams (185—Soph.)

(DEFENSE)

LE—Jimmy Kincaid (204—Soph.)  
LT—Kendrick Clancy (263—Fresh.)  
NG—Corey Hamler (303—Fresh.)  
RT—Tyquan Taylor (236—Fresh.)  
RE—Neal Keeton (245—Soph.)  
LB—Dejuan Clark (212—Fresh.)  
LB—Kemba Bryant (215—Soph.)  
CB—Ashanti Webb (182—Soph.)  
CB—Mark Thomas (185—Soph.)  
SS—Xavier Thomas (205—Soph.) or  
Jeff Rowell (205—Soph.)  
FS—Joey Pinkston (170—Fresh.)

**MIDDLE GEORGIA STARTERS**  
(OFFENSE)

SE—Abdul Davis (202—Soph.)  
LT—Mark Beichler (290—Soph.)  
LG—Matt Mize (271—Soph.)  
C—Clint Curl (270—Soph.)  
RG—Derrick Nobles (243—Fresh.)  
RT—Curtis Sanders (279—Soph.)  
TE—Derrick Cody (232—Fresh.)  
QB—Chris Howard (196—Fresh.)  
FB—Rod Sparks (260—Soph.)  
TB—Robert Carr (177—Fresh.)  
FL—Chevin Nealy (156—Soph.)

(DEFENSE)

LE—Matthew Nathan (234—Fresh.)  
LT—Jarrett Jones (290—Soph.)  
RT—Jason Jones (333—Fresh.)  
RE—Brandon Elder (238—Soph.)  
SLB—Antonio Cochran (276—Soph.)  
MLB—Henry Robbins (240—Soph.)  
WLB—Gary Papka (219—Soph.)  
LCB—Vonkeith Spencer (180—Soph.)  
RCB—Marcus Lackey (185—Soph.)  
SS—Phillip Wilson (185—Soph.)  
FS—Wanye Verdell (191—Fresh.)



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### ***Championship Breakfast Held This Morning***

Football players are shown in line at the Championship Breakfast, held this morning at First Baptist Church of Brunswick. Sponsored by First Baptist and held in conjunction each year with the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl, members of the Middle Georgia, East Central, Brunswick High and Glynn Academy football teams, along with their coaches, cheerleaders and administrators, were recognized at the breakfast. Some 400 people were in attendance this morning. Glynn Academy head coach Terry Tuley served as the featured speaker with David Coley providing the music. The Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl's annual banquet will be held tonight at the Ramada Inn on Jekyll Island with the Rev. John Connell, pastor of First Baptist Church, being the featured speaker. All of the activities are leading up to tomorrow's 1 p.m. bowl battle at Glynn County Stadium. (News Photo/Mickey Harrison)



# Warriors seek to put Hinds loss behind them

By **Creg Stephenson**

The Meridian Star

DECATUR — It has been nearly three weeks since the East Central football team's dreams of a state championship were shattered in a 45-7 loss to Hinds.

While the embarrassing defeat is still fresh on the minds of the Warriors' players, the team won't be dwelling on it when they battle Middle Georgia in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic Saturday in Brunswick, Ga.

"We just have to put that game in the past and get ready for this week," said ECCC linebacker Kemba Bryant, who made the All-State team this season for the second straight year. "It was disappointing to lose to Hinds, because our goal was to win all our games this year. But we definitely don't want to go down there this weekend and lose."

Before the loss to Hinds, East Central had won 11 straight games dating back to the last two games of 1995. Sophomore quarterback Jake Kizziah said a loss had become such an unknown feeling that the Warriors have a new challenge in rebounding.

"We need to keep our composure this week if things start going badly," said Kizziah, a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala. "We got behind against Hinds and



just blew up."

Offensive guard Jason Nixon, another All-State pick as a freshman, said that he knows what will be No. 1 among things he must improve from the Hinds game.

"I, for one, was a little intimidated," Nixon said. "Some of us younger guys got too excited. We need to maintain ourselves this week."

The Warriors enter the weekend at 9-1, while Middle Georgia, also known as the Warriors, comes in at 8-3, but riding a six game winning streak. Several members of the ECCC team, including Bryant and Nixon, are Georgia natives, and would like nothing better than to pick up a convincing win in their home state.

"This will be my first chance to play in front of a lot of my friends and members of my family that can't come all the way to Mississippi to see me play," said Bryant, a native of Atlanta. "I'll also get to play

against a lot of guys I played against in high school, so that should be interesting."

Offensive guard Bo Thomas, a freshman from XXXX, Georgia, said he his future in football may weigh heavily on Saturday's game.

"This is a chance to show what I can do for colleges in Georgia," Thomas said. "I can get recognized over there and hopefully get a chance to play college football in my home state one day."

The road trip includes banquets, tourist outings and not least, a 10-hour bus ride. Kizziah said all of those, and the fact the team has not played in three weeks, may be distractions for the next few days, but will be forgotten by game day.

"We lost a little step overall before Thanksgiving, but we've gotten it back in the last few days," Kizziah said. "There will be plenty to keep us busy Thursday and Friday, but by the time we wake up Saturday morning, all we'll be thinking about is the kickoff."

Kickoff for the game is set for 1 p.m. at Glynn County Stadium in Brunswick. Tickets are \$10 at the gate.

The public is invited to a special "championship sendoff" Wednesday night at 11:45 p.m., which is when the team bus is scheduled to leave the East Central parking lot.





**Mack Pittman** and the East Central Warriors leave tonight for their bowl game against Middle Georgia Saturday in Brunswick, Ga. Paula Merritt/The Meridian Star



1-11-96  
ECCC

# EC wins Battle of Warriors

Mack Pittman's seven-yard touchdown run followed by Shaun Walker's PAT late in first-half action lifted East Central Community College to a 7-6 win over Middle Georgia College in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic held Saturday in Brunswick, Georgia.

The bowl matchup was billed as the "Battle of Warriors" as each team has the same mascot.

Pittman, a freshman running back from Panama City, FL, set a bowl record with 197 yards rushing on 32 carries and was presented the team's most valuable player award by bowl offi-

See ECCC

6A



ECCC head football coach Willie Coats, center, and members of the ECCC football team after winning the trophy in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic in Brunswick, Ga., over the weekend. ECCC photo.

THE NEWTON RECORD

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## ■ ECCC

cials during post-game activities. The championship trophy was presented to ECCC co-captains Marcus Holmes (offense) of Louisville and Kemba Bryant (defense) of Atlanta, GA, and head football

coach Willie Coats. Coach Coats said the bowl victory is "a great win for our kids, who have worked very hard all year. We are now focusing our efforts on recruiting and looking forward to next year."

East Central, which completed the season with a 10-2 mark compared to Middle Georgia's 8-4 record, received two trophies following its bowl victory. One trophy is rotated year-to-year by the winning team, and the other award is kept on a permanent basis. Both trophies will be on display in the lobby of the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

Middle-Georgia took an early lead over East Central when running back Rod Sparks found paydirt on a five-yard scamper with 12:12 in the initial period. Chris Mullis' PAT was blocked by Neal Keeton of Morton but an offside penalty against ECCC gave the "other War-

riors" another attempt from just over a yard from the goal line. However, Middle Georgia was denied again as defensive back Ashanti Webb of Tampa, FL, sacked quarterback Ashley Lewis for a loss, leading the way for East Central to take the lead with a touchdown and extra point.

The short scoring drive was set up by Deik Jackson's 72-yard return of an Al Hunt punt to the EC 10-yard line.

Middle Georgia had a chance to extend its lead late in the first quarter when Hunt, again in punt formation, mishandled the snap from center and gave MG possession on the EC 16. But key defensive plays by Bryant, Jimmy Kincaid of Morton and Tyquan Taylor of Louisville forced Middle Georgia into a fourth and 20 situation from which it failed to convert a score.

East Central would later take the lead for good following Pittman's short run with 2:20 left before halftime. The 67-yard, five-play drive was set up by Forest product Joey Pinkston's interception on the ECCC 33-yard line. Key plays during the drive included quarterback Jake Kizziah's 16-yard strike to Pittman at midfield, and Pittman's 20-yard run to the Middle Georgia 27. Kizziah hails from Tuscaloosa.

Taylor who combined efforts to stop running back Robert Carr for a five-yard loss on second and four from the EC 16. Middle Georgia threw an incomplete pass on third down and Mullis missed his field goal try on fourth down.

EC then took possession on its 20, and proceeded to drive almost the length of the field behind runs by Pittman and fullback Steve Bradford, a product of Scott Central High School. Instead of scoring, EC chose to run out the clock from the Middle Georgia four-yard line.

EC had 18 first downs compared to nine for Middle Georgia.

EC had 251 yards rushing and 99 passing for a total offensive performance of 350 yards.

Middle Georgia had 145 yards rushing and 18 passing for a 163-yard total.

Both teams had opportunities to score in the second half. Walker, of Morton, barely missed a 32-yard field goal late in the third quarter, and Mullis' 37-yard effort with 4:16 left in the game was also not successful.

Prior to Mullis' attempt, Middle Georgia had driven from its own four-yard line to the EC 21 before being stopped once again by a stubborn EC defense, led by Kincaid and



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ECCC

# Warriors drink from victory bowl; Wolves basketball team adjusts

By Lee Baker  
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

East Central's 7-6 victory over Middle Georgia in the Golden Isles Bowl last weekend in Brunswick, Ga., was particularly welcome since it was the first bowl game for the Warriors since 1949.

"That was a good one — a close match," EC coach Willie Coats said. "We outgained them big (350 yards rushing and passing to 163), but only had three long drives — missing a field goal, scoring and ending the game on their 3."

Middle Georgia scored its first possession after a 72-yard punt return to the EC 10.

But on what would prove to be the game-decider Middle Georgia first had a point-after kick blocked. The play was promptly canceled by off-sides on East Central. Middle Georgia then had a fake kick fail as EC defensive back Ashanti Webb pressured MG quarterback Ashley Lewis into a wild throw nowhere close to a receiver.

"Our defense played especially well," Coats said, "while the offense did what it had to do."

The Mississippians made their winning drive after an interception by Forest's Joey Pinkston at the EC 33, striking in five plays with Mack Pittman going the final 7 yards followed by Shaun Walker's game-winning PAT. Pittman, a freshman

## JUNIOR COLLEGES

running back from Panama City, Fla., was the game's most valuable player after gaining 197 yards on 32 carries.

"Now it's recruiting time," Coats said, "with 18 sophs to replace, most of them starters or top backups."

**Co-Lin basketball:** Basketball eases towards a shut-down until after the holidays with a scattering of games this week.

Leading off tonight is Copiah-Lincoln hosting Delgado of New Orleans with hopes of improving records before the break. Gwyn Young's Lady Wolves are 8-2 overall, 2-0 South Division. Dennis Sims' Wolves are 7-3, 1-1 South.

Sims, new to Co-Lin after 12 years coaching at Southwest Mississippi, admits "we still are adjusting the lineup. Lately the defense has carried us, giving up just 60.1 points a game the last five."

The highlight thus far is twice beating Northwest Mississippi, perhaps the North Division's best. Sims, nevertheless, hopes for improved offense, saying, "That still has a ways to go."

That could come if 6-foot-4 forward Darron Heckard, last season's top scorer, regains his eligibility. He is already signed by Northeast Louisiana.

Co-Lin leaders are sophomores Marcus Tyler, a 6-7 post from Monticello, signed by Idaho, with 16.1 points and 10.4 rebounds a game, and Donald Fleming, a 6-3 off guard from Fayette, averaging 14.2 points.

**Southwest basketball:** Southwest's Bears, now led by Don "Bubba" Skelton, head to the Bossier City (La.) Classic to meet Richland (Texas) Friday and Northlake (Texas) Saturday.

The Bears go in 5-5 overall, 0-2 South with those losses to Gulf Coast and East Central.

"We started 4-0, then lost some close ones — to Holmes by 2, East Central by 2 and Delgado by 3," Skelton said. "So far Rusty Chapman (a 5-9 point guard from Baton Rouge) is our only one averaging double figures at 25 a game."

"That's lots of inexperience with two of our five sophomores out with injuries contributing to that, but things are getting better."

**East Central basketball:** East Central also hits the road this weekend, Friday at 8 p.m., facing its host at the Bishop State (Ala.) Invitational, then Saturday either Alabama Southern or Wallace State/Selma. The Lady Warriors lead off Saturday play against Bishop State at 1:30. The EC men are 7-1, 2-0 South. The EC women are 4-3, 0-2 South.



## JUCO FOOTBALL

### TOP 15 POLL

	Record	Pts
1. Blinn, Texas (9)	12-0	119
2. Nassau, N.Y. (1)	11-0	108
3. Dixie, Utah	10-1	99
4. Snow, Utah	10-1	82
5. East Central, Miss.	10-1	70
6. Coffeyville, Kan.	9-2	64
7. Garden City, Kan.	10-2	63
8. North Dakota State	9-1	52
9. Glendale, Ariz.	8-3	29
10. Grand Rapids, Mich.	9-2	27
11. Vermilion, Minn.	10-0	18
12. Hinds, Miss.	8-3	15
13. Montgomery, Md.	9-1	13
14. Tyler, Texas	8-2	10
15. Ellsworth, Iowa	8-2	7

### EAST CENTRAL WINS BOWL 7-6: Mack

Pittman scored the winning touchdown on a 7-yard run in the second quarter and totaled 197 yards rushing Saturday to lead East Central Community College to a 7-6 victory over Middle Georgia in the Golden Isles Bowl Classic at Brunswick, Ga.

Middle Georgia, 8-4, scored in the first quarter on Rod Sparks' 5-yard run. The Georgians were stopped on a conversion run.

Pittman scored with two minutes left in the half. Shaun Walker kicked the crucial extra point.

Pittman was named most valuable player for the ninth-ranked Warriors, who finished their season 10-1.

## JUCO FOOTBALL

### GOLDEN ISLES BOWL

#### CLASSIC

AT BRUNSWICK, GA.

EAST CENTRAL 7, MIDDLE GEORGIA 6

EAST CENTRAL (10-1) 0 7 0 0 - 7

MIDDLE GEORGIA (8-4) 6 0 0 0 - 6

MG - Sparks 5 run (run failed). EC -

Pittman 7 run (Walker kick).

## JC BASKETBALL

### MEN

NORTHWEST 106, WALKER 84

NORTHWEST (11-2) - Armstrong 2, Golden 20, Peete 2, Edwards 2, Wilborn 4, Williams 3, Turner 6, Nelson 18, Driver 2, Orange 23, Whiteside 6, Hicks 18.

WALKER, ALA. (3-4) - Duncan 23, Walker 3, Hudson 16, Maddox 6, Lewis 14, Mayfield 2, Mattox 14, Craven 2, Grubbs 4. Halftime - Northwest 54-36.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### FOOTBALL

#### ■ Junior Colleges

East Central 7 ..... Middle Ga. 6

#### ■ SEC Championship

Florida-Alabama ..... n

#### ■ Big 12 Championship

Texas 37 ..... Nebraska 27

#### ■ WAC Championship

BYU 28 ..... Wyoming 25

#### ■ Others

Army 28 ..... Navy 24

#### ■ Division I-AA Playoffs

Marshall 54 ..... Furman 0

Troy State 31 ..... Murray State 3

Montana 44 ..... East Tenn. 14

No. Iowa 38 ..... Wm. & Mary 35

### BASKETBALL

#### ■ State College Men

Ole Miss 93 ..... Houston 71

USM 70 ..... Grambling 52

E. Mich. 84 ..... Jackson State 69

Alcorn-Tougaloo ..... n

Miss. Valley 68 ..... Morehead 64

#### ■ State College Women

Ole Miss 86 ..... Appalachian 84

Miss. State 81 ..... Grambling 61

USM-Hawaii ..... n

Jackson State-NE State ..... n

Alcorn State-Rice ..... n

Delta State 84 ..... Xavier 51

#### ■ SEC Men

6. Kentucky 99 ..... 8. Indiana 65

22. Arkansas-Missouri ..... n

Louisville 93 ..... LSU 87

Alabama 80 ..... Fla. Int. 65

Auburn 66 ..... Ga. State 48

Florida-Duquesne ..... n

Penn State 42 ..... Tennessee 41

Vanderbilt 66 ..... Memphis 59

#### Conference USA Men

DePaul-Northwestern ..... n

#### Top 25 Men

1. Kansas 96 ..... 17. UCLA 83

2. W. Forest 53 ..... N.C. State 45

15. Arizona 69 ..... 3. Utah 61



MRV-1  
ECCC



### ***Bowl champs***

East Central Community College head football coach Willie Coats, seated center, and his Warriors show off their Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl championship trophy following their recent 7-6 win over

Middle Georgia College. The Warriors finished with a 10-1 record, matching the school record for wins in a season.

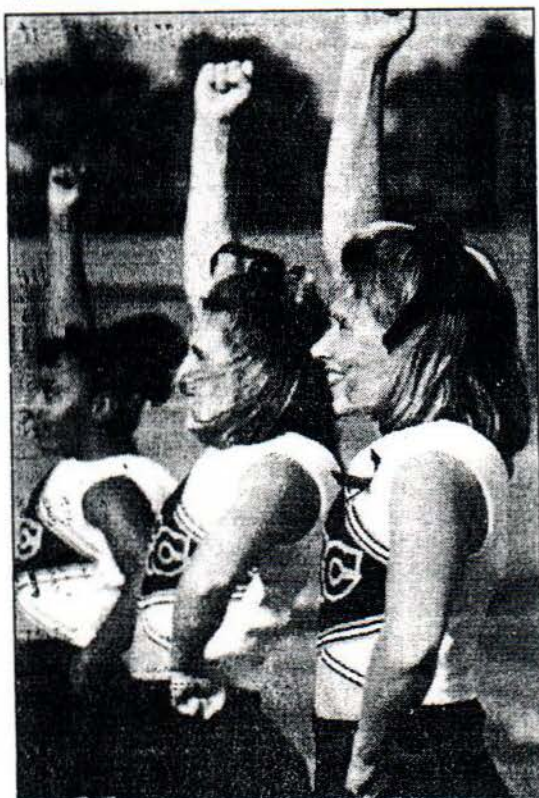
NESHOBA DEMOCRAT  
12/25/96





### Going bowling

East Central Community College football coach Willie Coats gathers his ninth-ranked troops in recent action. The 9-1 Warriors plan to depart Decatur at 11:45 tonight for their Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic showdown with 8-3 Middle Georgia College. Saturday's kickoff is set for noon (CST) in Brunswick, Ga. The game may be heard on WSSI-FM (98.3) in Carthage and WMYQ-FM (97.9) in Newton. The public is invited to join in giving the Warriors a championship send-off tonight in the parking lot next to the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.



#### EAST CENTRAL WARRIORS (9-1)

Holmes	13-6
Northeast	36-7
Northwest	20-15
Itawamba	20-17
Pearl River	22-15
Gulf Coast	28-23
Jones	45-26
Co-Lin	20-14
Southwest	41-6
Hinds	7-45

#### MIDDLE GEORGIA WARRIORS (8-3)

Kilgore, Texas	2-20
Benedict, S.C.	35-0
Tyler, Texas	14-31
Nassau, N.Y.	14-17
West Georgia JV	45-6
Georgia Military	28-21
Hargrave (Va.) Military	46-6
Valdosta State JV	52-0
Kemper (Mo.) Military	21-3
Lackawanna (Pa.)	34-0
Troy State JV	27-6

#### BY THE NUMBERS

ECCC		MGC
25.2	Points Scored	30.5
17.4	Points Allowed	10.1
242.9	Rushing Offense	281.7
86.7	Passing Offense	60.0
329.6	Total Offense	341.7
135.0	Rushing Defense	115.2
96.7	Passing Defense	129.4
231.7	Total Defense	244.6

Joni French (foreground photo at left) of Forest cheers on EC during football action this fall. She is the daughter of Forest football coach Jack French.



# ECCC Warriors close season with win, 10-1 record

By Stan Grubb

The Meridian Star

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — It won't go down in East Central Community College football history as "The Drives," since none resulted in points.

But maybe they'll preserve them for the ages as "ECCC's Drives."

Three significant drives?

They were 62, 56 and 76 yards — 12, 11 and seven plays. The figures added up to exactly 17 minutes of game time and were a major reason why the East Central Warriors captured a 7-6 win over Middle Georgia in Saturday's Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic.

"I'm so delighted for our guys today," ECCC head coach Willie Coats said. "The patience of our coaches and the overall performance of these kids came out in the end. It wasn't a thing of beauty, but we played great on the line of scrimmage."

East Central took the game and MGC head on throughout the second half on the first two drives, which took up more than 12 minutes.

ECCC's dominating ground game didn't result in points on the scoreboard — although one resulted in a missed 32-yard field goal attempt — but the bruising runs of Mack Pittman and Steve Bradford began to take a heavy toll on the smaller MGC defenders.

The ECCC running attack also protected a slim one-point margin handed to the Warriors by Pittman, who twisted through MGC defenders on a seven-yard run in the closing minute of the first half. It capped a five-play, 67-yard scoring drive.

"It was perhaps three, counting the drive to close out the contest, of the biggest marches this team's had," said Bradford, who played extensively despite a severely sprained ankle. "We played solidly on defense as well. It was a good effort and a good win."

The victory completes ECCC's season at 10-1. It marks the first tie since 1939 the ninth-ranked Warriors have won in double figures in a season.

As has been the case all year for ECCC, the running game told the story. But it would be Middle Georgia who would strike first.

After the game initial posses-

sion lasted only three plays, East Central's Al Hunt was forced to punt. Middle Georgia's Deik Jackson hauled in the kick, ran toward the middle of the field, the reversed and darted up the sideline.

Jackson picked up key blocks and raced 72 yards down to the ECCC 10-yard line. His punt return, which was the longest in the bowl's history, was one of three marks that fell on the day.

Two plays later, MGC full-back Rod Sparks bolted through the middle for a five-yard touchdown. MGC missed the point after, but got another chance due to an ECCC penalty. The second time, Middle Georgia opted to try for two, but ECCC's Tyquan Taylor dropped George Brown, holding MGC to a 6-0 advantage.

East Central safety Joey Pinkston set up his team's go-ahead score by stepping in front of a Brown aerial at the ECCC 33 with 4:38 to play in the second quarter.

From there, Pittman burst out on runs of 16 and 18 yards, taking the Warriors into MGC territory. A face mask penalty allowed ECCC to reach the Middle Georgia 27.

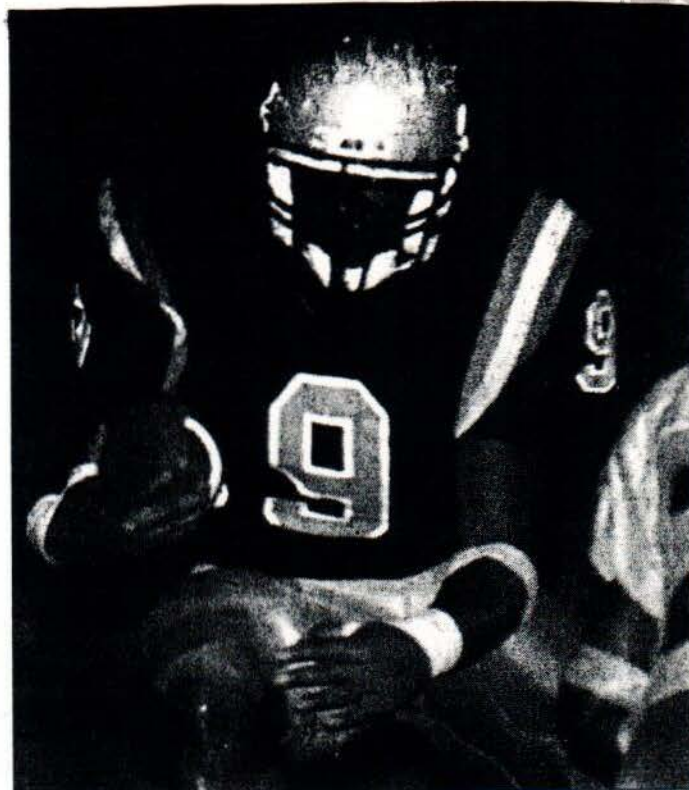
Pittman closed out the drive three plays later ECCC to the locker room out in front, 7-6.

Pittman, who accounted for 67 of his team's 87 rushing yards in the first half, added to his record-setting afternoon in the second half with 130 more. The result was a 197-yard total and the game's Most Valuable Player Award.

The game came down to a pair of drives — one by each team. With 8:03 to play, Hunt pinned MGC back at its own 4-yard line after an 11-play drive by ECCC was stalled. Middle Georgia proceeded to move the ball toward midfield on runs by Sparks and Robert Carr before Brown connected with Abdul Davis for an 18-yard pick-up.

Brown then kept on the option, ducked inside a mass of linemen and escaped. He darted up field on a record-setting 48-yard run down to the ECCC 222. MGC would reach the East Central 15, before a pair of sacks forced a 37-yard field goal attempt that was no good.

East Central took over with 4:10 to play and marched 76 yards down to the MGC 4, before the game clock expired.



Paula Merritt/The Meridian Star

Mack Pittman of East Central was the game's MVP.

## Pittman credits line for yardage

By Stan Grubb

The Meridian Star

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — East Central Community College running back Mack Pittman has always had a love of history. Not reading it, but making it.

And Saturday, Pittman and the Warriors put their indelible and historic stamp on the Huddle House-Golden Isle Bowl Classic.

The game between East Central and Middle Georgia College turned into a war in the trenches. But contrary to local declarations by the host squad, Pittman and his trenchmen dominated the line of scrimmage.

"We didn't do it much early in the game, but it picked up as we went along," Pittman said. "In the second quarter, and much of the third, I thought our guys up front did a fantastic job of driving off the football, giving me and the other backs lanes to run."

Pittman made that abundantly clear in the latter stages of the first half by ripping off large chunks of yardage, including runs of 18, 14 and 12 yards on his team's lone scoring drive shortly before intermission. His



record-setting performance was even more masterful in the second half.

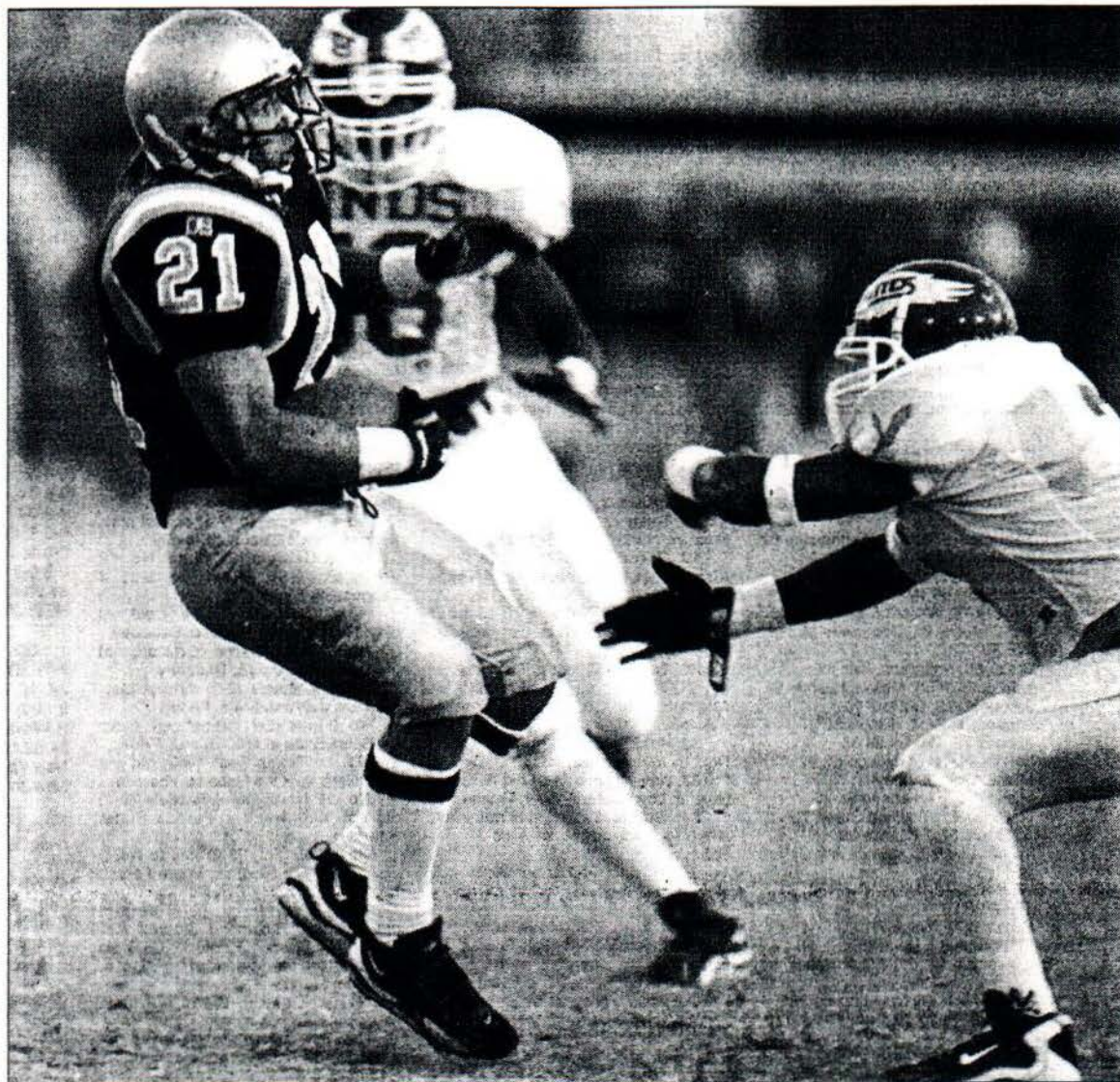
It was then Pittman and the line shined the brightest. The 5-foot-9 freshman almost single-handedly led the Warriors on key second half drives and capped the outing averaging 12 yards per carry on ECCC's game-ending, fourth quarter drive.

The game's Most Valuable Player chalked up 197 yards on 32 carries.

Numbers were only part of the story for ECCC's line play. In addition to Pittman's high rushing mark, the likes of tackles Ryan Stokley (257), Jason Nixon (275), guards Russell McCann (254) and Bo Thomas (280) along with center Demarcus Holmes, paved the way for its talented offense to methodically chew up the clock and wear down Middle Georgia.



# Warriors vs. Warriors



**East Central** runningback Derrell Reed will be looking for yardage Saturday when the Warriors play Middle Georgia in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl.

Paula Merritt/The Meridian Star

Teams similar in name, style of play

MERIDIAN STAR  
12/5/96



By **Creg Stephenson**

The Meridian Star

When they square off in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic Saturday in Brunswick, Ga., East Central Community College and Middle Georgia will have a lot more in common than just both being nicknamed the Warriors.

Both teams have just recently risen to national prominence.

Both teams depend on the running game to do most of their offensive damage.

Both teams have deep and talented defensive squads.

Both teams have had long winning streaks this season.

"They remind us a lot of us," East Central offensive lineman Jason Nixon said. "They like to run the ball on offense and they play good defense."

Middle Georgia restored its football program in 1994 after a 35-year period of dormancy. Under head coach Dennis Roland, the Warriors are 25-8 in three years and are appearing in their second consecutive bowl game. Roland said the comparisons between the two teams are fair.

"Something that stands out about them is that they're well-coached, and I'd like to think we are, too," Roland said. "They play with a lot of discipline and take advantage of their opportunities, which is something we've been able to do lately."

Middle Georgia comes into the game on an seven-game winning streak after dropping three of its first four games this season. As one of only two junior colleges in Georgia, MGC has had to look outside its state to create a schedule, playing such national powers as Tyler, Texas, Nassau, N.Y. and Lackawanna, Pa. Roland said playing such teams readied his Warriors to compete on the same level as East Central, which plays in perhaps the top JuCo league in the country.

"We've never played a Mississippi school before, but

we know they play an outstanding brand of football there," Roland said. "We have to schedule whoever we can get, with Georgia Military being the only other junior college in our state. That makes for a tough schedule, but the three games we lost this season (to Kilgore, Texas, Tyler and Nassau) were all close in the fourth quarter."

Statistically, the two teams match up well. East Central has scored 25.2 points per game this season, while allowing 17.4. Middle Georgia has posted 33.6 points a contest, giving up just 10.1.



### HUDDLE HOUSE GOLDEN ISLES BOWL

Both teams boast a 1,000-yard rusher. East Central has freshman Mack Pittman (1,139 yards, 13 scores), while Middle Georgia can counter with 260-pound workhorse fullback Rod Sparks (1,036 yards, six

touchdowns.

Linebacker plays is key for both teams. East Central's tandem of Kemba Bryant and Dejuan Clark has combined for 233 tackles this season, while MGA's trio of Antonio Cochran, Henry Robbins and Gary Papka has teamed up for 189 stops.

"They are a lot like us, but they really concern me," said East Central head coach Willie Coats, who is 11-9 in two seasons at ECCC. "They've got a big fullback that's tough inside and their tailback and quarterback run the option well. They'll be a great challenge for us."

One difference between the two teams is that Middle Georgia lists 95 players on its roster, while East Central totals only 55 players. MGA has the entire state of Georgia to choose talent from, while ECCC has only a four-county district. Roland said he only plays "about 55" of the players on his roster. Coats said having that kind of depth is a definite advantage for Middle Georgia.

"That scares me," Coats said. "He can just pick whatever players he wants. If somebody gets hurt, he can just pull somebody else up. We don't have that luxury."

Depth may already be an issue for East Central. Sophomore fullback Steve Bradford, who has rushed for 705 yards and seven scores this season, has a severely sprained ankle and is "very doubtful" for Saturday, Coats said. Backup tailback Derrell Reed moves in at fullback to replace Bradford. Should Reed or Pittman get injured, ECCC is left with few options, Coats said.

"After that, we don't have any more running backs," Coats said. "Should we need to, we'd pull (starting cornerback) Xavier Thomas off the defense and play him in the backfield."

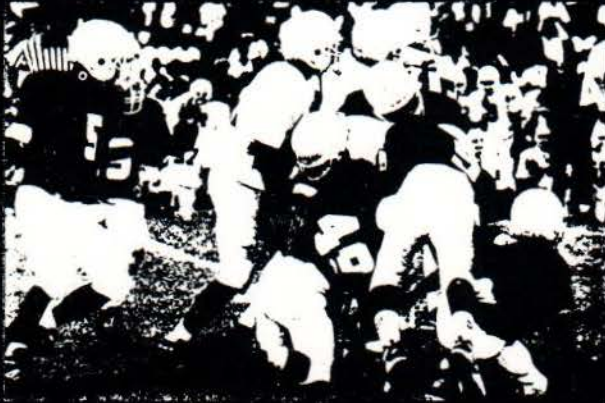
The East Central team left Decatur by bus around 11:45 p.m. Wednesday and was scheduled to arrive in Brunswick around mid-day Thursday. Kickoff for the game is set for 1 p.m. Saturday at Glynn County Stadium.



**ECCC coach Willie Coats** has the Warriors in postseason play.



MRVF -1  
ECCC



This fall, on a Wednesday afternoon, more than 1000 middle school students and their parents and friends participated in an afterschool sports event that included football teams, cheerleaders and band members from Glynn County middle schools.

This weekly event was made possible by the proceeds (\$83,000) raised from the First Annual Golden Isles Bowl Classic last year, that featured 2 nationally ranked Junior College football teams. This year is expected to be even better...but it needs your help.

# **DON'T MISS IT!!!**

## **The Second Annual GOLDEN ISLES BOWL CLASSIC**



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THE BRUNSWICK NEWS**

11/6/96



# East Central Golden

By MURRAY POOLE  
News Sports Editor

The morning started out dreary looking, with some showers falling in various sections of the county. However, somewhat miraculously, by the 1 p.m. kickoff time Saturday, it was a blue Golden Isles sky and bright sunshine that greeted the 2nd Annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic.

And with the ideal weather conditions—the temperatures hit the high 70s—came an exciting football game played by the teams representing Middle Georgia College and East Central Community College of Decatur, Miss.

Although only 13 points were scored in this one—compared to the 63 points accounted for in last year's inaugural game—the contest was in doubt down to the very end.....the Warriors of East Central turning back the host Warriors from MGC by 7-6.

East Central, the No. 9-ranked team in the final regular-season NJCAA poll, used a powerful running game and a most stingy defense to stymie the Cochran gridmen.

With freshman tailback Mack Pittman rushing for a new Golden Isles bowl record of 197 yards on 32 carries (Georgia Military's Ronnie Bradley had run for 184 yds. last season), the Warriors from Mississippi rolled up 251 yards on the ground and another 99 yards in the air, for a 350 total offense figure. Meanwhile, the quick ECCC defense was choking off the Middle Georgia offense Saturday, limiting the Warriors to just 145 yards rushing and only 18 yards passing.

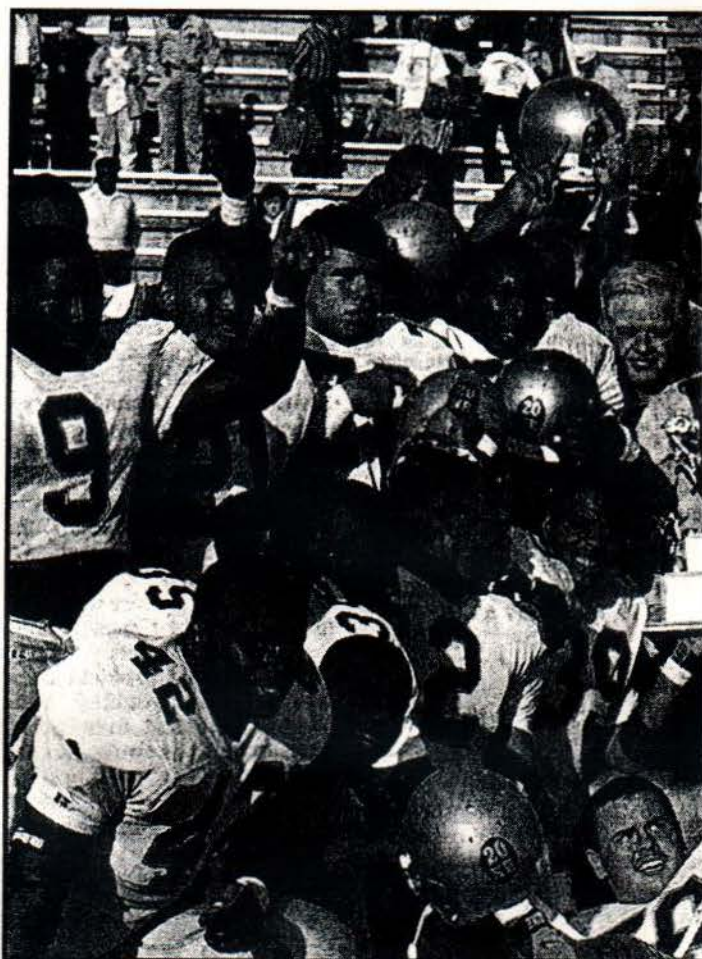
All of the scoring Saturday came in the first half of play.

**Middle Georgia jumped out to an early 6-0 lead on East Central and, in fact, had a golden opportunity to put the Mississippi team into a two-touchdown hole.**

When the MGC defense forced East Central to punt on its first possession, ECCC punter Al Hunt unloaded a 57-yard kick, which rolled all the way to the Middle Georgia 18-yard line. But there, the ball was scooped up by Warrior punter Deik Jackson and the freshman from Macon County broke free down the right sidelines and sped 72 yards, to the East Central 10-yard stripe.

Middle Georgia's big 260-pound fullback, Rod Sparks, then got the touchdown on two consecutive five-yard runs...the MGC score coming with still 12:12 remaining in the first quarter.

Middle Georgia then saw its extra-point kick blocked but with ECCC being ruled offsidelines on the play, the Cochran Warriors would get another conversion try from a yard and a half closer in. For some reason this time, Middle Georgia



## Happy Band of Warriors

**The East Central Community College Warriors celebrate Warriors, in Saturday's 2nd Annual Huddle House Golden Willie Coats is shown in center of the picture as he helps Harrison)**

defense.

Although they didn't know it at the time, this missed PAT attempt would come back to haunt the Middle Georgia Warriors.

Following a subsequent change of possessions, Roland's team then gained another excellent scoring chance. When East Central punter Hunt dropped back to punt at his own 26-yard line, he couldn't get a handle on the snap and was dropped in his tracks back at the ECCC 16.

But then being given a preview of the offensive frustration that was to come, the Middle Georgia offense couldn't make the most of this newfound opportunity. In fact, the MGC Warriors would only go backwards...three running plays sandwiched around a 15-yard penalty placing the ball back on the 31 and effectively nullifying their scoring bid.

With the East Central defense clamping down on the MGC running game, the host Warriors elected to go to the air. That strategy, too, would be thwarted by the quick Mississippi defenders. When George Brown, Middle Georgia's alternating freshman

Central free safety Joey Pinkston at the ECCC 33.

This time, the Decatur, Miss. Warriors would kick their offense into high gear and, march 67 yards on just five plays to the MGC end zone.

East Central sophomore quarterback Jake Kizziah, from Tuscaloosa, Ala., ignited the scoring drive by throwing a 16-yard strike to tailback Pittman, putting the football at the ECCC 49.

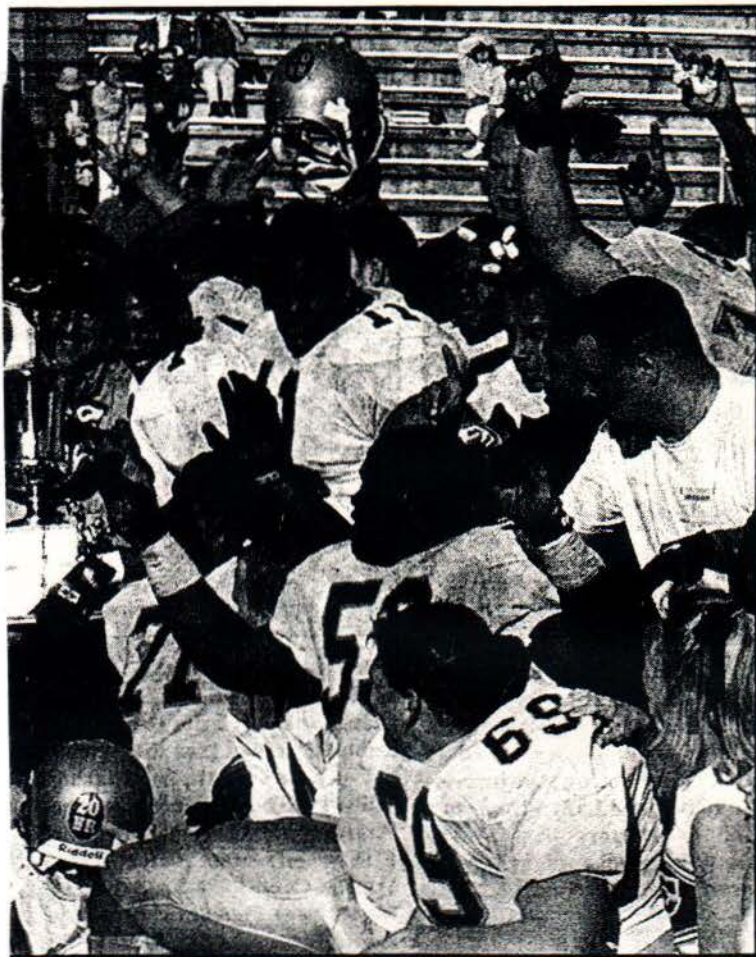
On his way to notching Most Valuable Player honors, the 235-pound Pittman, a freshman from Panama City, Fla., then reeled off a 19-yard scamper to the MGC 32-yard line. A 5-yard penalty on Middle Georgia, at the end of Pittman's run, advanced the ball on down to the MGC 27. Pittman then ripped off 12 additional yards, to the Middle Georgia 15 and, from there, fullback Steve Bradford carried the pigskin eight more yards to the seven. On the next snap, Pittman took the handoff from Kizziah and went right up the middle for the touchdown.

With now 2:25 remaining until the intermission, Shaun Walker split the uprights on the PAT kick and the East Central Warriors

The Brunswick News  
12/9/96



# Isles Bowl Champs



their hard-fought 7-6 victory over the Middle Georgia College Isles Bowl Classic at Glynn County Stadium. ECCC head coach the team display the championship trophy. (News Photo/Mickey

played, little did anyone realize at the time that this tally on both end zone scoreboards, would remain until game's end.

But although there would be no further scoring in the final two quarters, the game would remain in doubt until the very end, for the estimated 5,000-plus fans who turned out to lend their support to the local middle school athletic programs.

While East Central continued to control the ball and clock for most of the third stanza—behind the tough running of Pittman—the Middle Georgia offense would finally come out of its slumber in the fourth period.

After being backed up to their own 4-yard line by a Al Hunt punt, the MGC Warriors looked as if they were intent on driving the long 96 yards for the go-ahead touchdown. An 18-yard pass from Brown to sophomore wideout Abdul Davis—Middle Georgia's lone pass completion of the day—got the Warriors going and then QB Brown, from Augusta's Josey High, broke loose on a scrambling, 48-yard run...all the way to the ECCC 22-yard stripe before he was knocked out of bounds.

the play and, as things turned out, was through for the day. Though Sparks ran for seven to the 15 on the next play, the MGC scoring threat was then squashed by the East Central defense. After ECCC tossed tailback Robert Carr for a five-yard loss back to the 20 and after a Chris Howard pass fell incomplete on third down, the Warriors lined up for a 37-yard field goal attempt. But Chris Mullis' kick, being partially blocked by ECCC def. end Neal Keeton, was wide left, leaving East Central clinging to its precarious 7-6 lead.

With that man Pittman then hammering out gains of 5, 27, 1, 9 and 5 yards, sandwiched around runs of 23 and 3 yards by fullback Bradford, East Central kept the football away from MGC in the final minutes, in fact marching all the way to the Middle Georgia four-yard line as the game came to conclusion.

Behind Pittman's record-breaking performance, the 226-pound Bradford rushed for 53 yards on seven carries for the winners while quarterback Kizziah completed six of 12 passing attempts for 99 yards...all of that total coming in the first half of play. Tim Livingston and Calvin Williams led the East Central receiving

THE STATISTICS			
East Central		Middle Ga.	
18	First Downs	9	
251	Yds. Rushing	145	
99	Yds. Passing	18	
350	Total Yards	163	
12	Passes Attempted	10	
6	Passes Completed	1	
6-40.0	Punts	6-39.8	
7-48 yds.	Penalties	4-30 yds.	
0	Fumbles Lost	0	

for an identical 32 yards.

Middle Georgia, which was limited to 35 yards total offense in the first half, ended the game with just the 145 yards rushing and 18 passing. Thanks to his 48-yard scamper from scrimmage, quarterback Brown fronted MGC with 66 yards on seven carries. Sophomore fullback Sparks, who entered Saturday's game with well over 1,000 yards rushing under his belt, was checked to 43 yards on 10 trips by the ECCC stop-em crew. Then came tailback Carr with 32 yards on 13 carries.

It was truly a tremendous day for coach Willie Coats' ECCC defensive unit. In limiting Middle Georgia to the 163 yards of total offense and the one short touchdown drive, the Mississippi Warriors fashioned a most balanced effort. Sophomore linebacker Kemba Bryant, from Atlanta, led the way with seven individual tackles and then came tackle Tyquan Taylor, linebacker Dejuan Clark, cornerback Ashanti Webb, strong safety Jeff Rowell and free safety Pinkston...all with four solo tackles and several assists each.

And although surrendering a lot of real estate to Pittman and company, the Middle Georgia defense too allowed just the one touchdown Saturday.

Selected as the team's MVP, Georgia-bound defensive end Antonio Cochran, a 6-5, 276-pounder from Macon County, rang up 10 individual tackles on the ECCC running backs. Sophomore strong safety Phillip Wilson followed with seven stops, free safety Wayne Verdell notched six tackles and then came 290-pound tackle Jarrett Jones and middle linebacker Henry Robbins with five tackles apiece...the 240-pound Robbins also being credited with seven assists.

Two of the most effective weapons for both Warrior teams were punters Hunt of ECCC and Mike Ross of MGC. Each averaged right at 40 yards on six kicks.

Not only were the fans on hand treated to some big-time football Saturday, they were also entertained royally at halftime...by the Glynn Academy and Brunswick High Marching Bands, the BHS Show Choir and the East Central Community College Marching Band—"The Wall O' Sound."

ECCC—6000\_6  
MGC—Sparks 5-yd. run (pass failed)



# ECCC takes to gridiron today

By **Creg Stephenson**  
The Meridian Star

The time for sightseeing and fancy dining is over — it's time to play football.

After a week of extensive workouts and pregame festivities, not to mention anticipation by both teams, the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic finally kicks off today in Brunswick, Ga. The game pits East Central Community College (9-1) and Middle Georgia College (8-3) of Cochran, Ga. for a 1 p.m. battle in Glynn County Stadium.

"It's going to be a great challenge," East Central head coach Willie Coats said. "The game's in Georgia and were playing a Georgia school, so that makes it even tougher. I look for a close, hard-fought game."

East Central comes into the game off its only loss of the season, a 45-7 blasting by Hinds three weeks ago, which ended the Warriors' state title hopes. Hinds went on to win the Mississippi Junior College Championship, stopping Holmes 20-14 on Nov. 23.

Middle Georgia, under third year head coach Dennis Roland, is riding a seven-game winning streak after opening the year 1-3, with losses coming to Kilgore (Texas), Tyler (Texas) and Nassau (N.Y.). MGC, also known as the Warriors, topped Troy State's junior varsity team 27-6, on Nov. 14. Roland said a key to his team's recent success was the installation of freshman Chris Howard at quarterback

in the season's fifth game.

"We didn't play all that badly in our three losses," Roland said. "We only lost to Nassau by three and they're No. 2 in the country this season. We were close to Tyler and Kilgore in the fourth quarter, and they're always among the top teams in the nation. We've been more consistent with Chris at quarterback."

Middle Georgia builds its offensive game around the run, however. Fullback Rod Sparks (6-2, 260) leads the team with 1,036 yards, but the Warriors have also gotten big contributions from tailbacks Pete Thomas (436 yards) and Robert Carr (463). Howard has run for 160 yards and three scores.

"Their big fullback is tough inside — he's a horse," Coats said. "Their tailback and quarterback run the option real well, too. They're very good, and we're concerned about stopping their running game."

Containing the run has been East Central's forte this season, however. The Warriors finished the season third in the state in rushing defense. Linebackers Kemba Bryant and Dejuan Clark, combined for 233 tackles this season. Despite ECCC's solid front seven, Roland said he doesn't anticipate changing his gameplan.

"This is my third bowl game as a junior college coach, and I've learned that any time you're in a bowl, it's best not to change anything you've done all season," Roland said. "You have to stay with what brought you."

## Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic

**Who:** East Central Community College vs. Middle Georgia College

**When:** Saturday, 1 p.m.

**Where:** Glynn County Stadium in Brunswick, Ga.

**TV:** None

**Radio:** WSSI-FM (98.3) in Carthage and WMYQ-FM (97.9) in Newton

**Series:** first meeting

**Last week:** Both teams were idle. East Central last played Nov. 16, losing to Hinds, 45-7. Middle Georgia last played Nov. 14, beating Troy State JV 27-6.

**Coaches:** East Central — Willie Coats (2nd year at ECCC, 11-9 record); Middle Georgia — Dennis Roland (3rd year at MGC, 25-8 record)

**Records:** East Central is 9-1 (wins over Holmes 13-6, Northeast 36-7, Northwest 20-15, Itawamba 20-17, Pearl River 22-15, Gulf Coast 28-13, Jones 45-26, Co-Lin 20-14, Southwest 41-6; loss to Hinds 45-7). Middle Georgia is 8-3 (wins over Benedict (S.C.) 35-0, West Georgia JV 45-6, Georgia Military 28-21, Hargrave Military (Va.) 46-6, Valdosta State JV 52-0, Kemper Military College (Mo.) 21-3, Lackawanna (Pa.) 34-0 and Troy State JV 27-6; losses to Kilgore (Texas) 20-2, Tyler (Texas) 31-14 and Nassau (N.Y.) 17-14).

**ECCC Warriors to watch on offense:** Freshman tailback Mack Pittman finished second in the state in rushing this season, with 1,139 yards and 13 touchdowns. Backup tailback Derrell Reed starts in place of injured fullback Steve Bradford, who ran for 705 yards and seven scores, but is sidelined with a sprained ankle. Center Marcus Holmes and Bo Thomas were all-state selections this season.

**ECCC Warriors to watch on defense:** Freshman safety Joey Pinkston was second in the state in interceptions, with eight on the season. Linebackers Kemba Bryant and Dejuan Clark combined for 233 tackles this season. Defensive end Kendrick Clancy had nine sacks this year.

**MGC Warriors to watch on offense:** Middle Georgia had 19 different players carry the ball this season. Fullback Rod Sparks (6-2, 260) led the way with 1,036 yards and six scores. Freshmen Pete Thomas and Robert Carr combined for 898 yards out of the tailback spot. Wide receiver Chevin Nealy averaged 28.8 yards on only five catches this year, with two going for scores.

**MGC Warriors to watch on defense:** Sophomore safety VonKeith Spencer had 14 interceptions in 1996, returning one for a touchdown. He also blocked a punt and recovered a fumble this season. Linebacker Henry Robbins led the team with 79 tackles; fellow backer Antonio Cochran had 76. Defensive end Otis Leverette had six sacks.

**Sources:** East Central Community College and Middle Georgia College  
Creg Stephenson/The Meridian Star

A sometimes dominating ground attack probably punched East Central's ticket to Brunswick as well. Freshman Mack Pittman was second in the state in rushing with 1,136 yards and 13 touchdowns. The Warriors lost their change of pace to Pittman's outside speed, however, as fullback Steve Bradford is out for the game with a sprained ankle. Backup tailback Derrell

Reed moves in at fullback is Bradford's absence. Should another injury occur, starting cornerback Xavier Thomas would be forced to move to the other side of the ball.

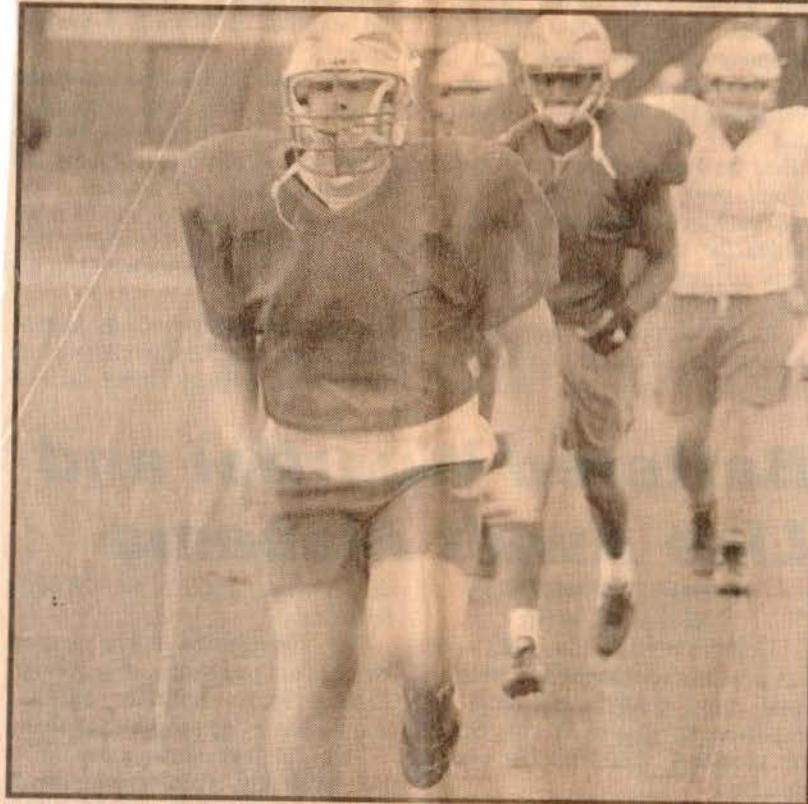
"We have to play a smash-mouth game," said Bo Thomas, an all-state offensive guard for East Central. "If we go straight at them, like we've been doing all season, we have a good chance to win."



MRVF-1

Friday, December 6, 1996

1B



### *Getting Loose*

Middle Georgia College players warm up before going through a light practice session yesterday at Glynn Academy. The 8-3 Warriors will serve as the host team for Saturday's second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl at Glynn County Stadium. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. (News Photo/Mickey Harrison)



### *It's Good!*

East Central Community College works with its field goal unit yesterday during a short practice session at Jane Macon Field. These 9-1 and ninth-ranked Warriors from Decatur, Miss., are looking to finish their season on a strong note in tomorrow's bowl game after suffering their only loss of the season to perennial power Hinds Community College their last time out. (News Photo/Mickey Harrison)



As Nation's Ninth-Ranked Team

# East Central CC Ready for Return to Georgia

By KEVIN PRICE  
Assistant Sports Editor

The East Central Community College Warriors are coming back to Georgia, albeit 47 years later. Still, they hope to go back to Decatur, Miss., with a bowl trophy in hand just as they did in their only other visit to the Peach State.

In their previous trip to the state, the Warriors skinned South Georgia 19-14 in the old Tobacco Bowl played in Valdosta in 1950, and they're hoping to scalp another band of Warriors from Middle Georgia in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl here Saturday.

"Our coaches and players are excited to be playing this game," said second-year ECCC coach Willie "Tenny" Coats, who played quarterback and defensive back at Southern Mississippi, where he helped the Golden Eagles to a undefeated season and the Small College National Championship in 1958.

"To still be practicing and playing at this point is a good feeling since everyone else has already put the equipment up until next year," added Coats, who also played minor league baseball as a member of the Chicago Cubs organization and minor league football with the Mobile Buccaneers in the Southern Professional Football League before entering the coaching profession. He was named "Co-Coach of the Year" in Mississippi this season.



## East Central Warriors Set for Golden Isles Bowl

The East Central Community College Warriors of Decatur, Miss., shown above, are on ready for Saturday's 2nd Annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic. East Central CC, which was to arrive in town today and hold a practice at the Brunswick High field, will carry a 9-1 season record and a No. 9 national ranking into Saturday's 1 p.m. game against the host Middle Georgia College Warriors. (Special Photo to The News)

The Hinds game was postponed until season's end, and the Warriors resumed competition the next week against Gulf Coast CC, wearing Russell's No. 20 on their helmets. Still reeling from the loss of their well-respected teammate, ECCC won the game 28-23.

allowed an average of 17.5 points a contest.

The Warriors average right at 243 yards rushing a contest and 87 yards passing. Before the Hinds game, they were fourth in the state out of 14 teams in total offense with 330 yards per game.

(5-11, 256) of Louisville, Miss., anchors the line. Recipient of the most outstanding offensive lineman award, he was named to the first team All-State.

77 solo stops, 27 assists and nine sacks. Freshman free safety Joey Pinkston (6-0, 170) of Forest is the secondary leader. An All-State Honorable Mention pick, he led the state with eight interceptions, returning one for a score.



p. 2

MRUF-1

**ECCC will enter the game as a slight favorite over Middle Georgia, which is 9-3 and unranked, though it could enter the final rankings with a win Saturday.**

ECCC is ranked ninth in the country with a 9-1 record, their best finish since the 1939 10-0 season. They were ranked fifth in the nation before losing their only game of the season to perennial power Hinds Community College 45-7 in the South Division Championship Game. Hinds (6-3) went on to capture the state title by defeating North Division representative Holmes CC 25-22. All of Hinds' losses were by forfeit for using an ineligible player.

The Warriors opened the season with a 13-7 victory over the same Holmes team, and then knocked off Northeast Mississippi 36-7 and Northwest Mississippi 20-15 in their next two contests.

**They would win two more games over Itawamba 20-17 and Pearl River 22-15 before tragedy struck the ECCC campus in early October. Just a couple of days before the big Homecoming game against Hinds, Warrior freshman safety Nathan Russell died from injuries sustained in a car wreck which occurred only an hour after a campus pep rally and involved several other students.**

In the next three weeks leading up to the showdown with Hinds, the Warriors pounded Jones CC 45-26, defeated Lincoln CC 20-14 and whipped Southwest Mississippi 41-6. At 9-0, they were awarded a bid to the Golden Isles Bowl.

**"Our team showed a lot of character by bouncing back after something like that," Coats said, referring to the fatal accident. "He was a highly-thought of kid who everyone liked a lot, and that was real difficult to get over. To be able to bounce back and play well after that happened took a lot of determination from our kids."**

Against Hinds, a team they have not beaten since the 1981 season, the Warriors simply fell apart.

"We didn't play as good as we had been playing," Coats said. "We made some critical mistakes that hurt us. We fumbled a punt situation on our own 4-yard line and fumbled a kickoff around our own 25, so we gave them two scores. But they have a good team, and we do too. Turnovers just really hurt us."

Coats said there's not much disparity between his team, Hinds and Holmes. "If we played each other 10 times, we'd probably end up 5-5."

This season, the Warriors have scored an average of 25.2 points per game, while the defense has

**"We like to try and have a balanced attack offensively," Coats said. "We like to be able to mix it up and try not to do what the defense is expecting. You could say we have a smorgasbord of plays with different formations like most everyone else these days, and we just reach down and grab one."**

**Leading the team's offensive attack is freshman running back Mack Pittman (5-9, 235) of Panama City, Fla. He has rushed for 1,139 yards and 13 touchdowns on 200 carries. He was named to the All-State second team at the end of the regular season.**

His backfield mate, sophomore fullback Steve Bradford (6-0, 226) of Forest, Miss., has also been productive this season running for 705 yards and seven TDs on 127 carries. He was named All-State honorable mention.

Sophomore quarterback Jake Kizziah (6-2, 205) of Tuscaloosa, Ala., has completed 39 of 86 passes for 651 yards and seven TDs. He has been intercepted four times.

**He shares the quarterback duties with freshman Al Hunt (5-10, 196) of Honea Path, S.C. Hunt serves as the team's punter and was named to the All-State first team as a kicker, averaging 40.4 yards a punt.**

Sophomore center Marcus Holmes

**Defensively, ECCC has allowed an average of 135 yards rushing a game, while giving up 97 yards threw the air. They have allowed an average of 232 yards a game, and were ranked second in the state in total defense prior to the Hinds contest.**

The unit is led by sophomore linebacker Kemba Bryant (6-1, 215) of Atlanta. Bryant, a first-team All-State selection and the South Division's most valuable defensive player, recorded 89 solo tackles and 40 assists this season.

**Freshman linebacker Dejuan Clark (6-0, 212) of Tuscaloosa, chosen second team All-State, notched**

**"Our defense has played well all year," Coats said. "They really carried us early, along with the kicking game. We blocked several punts early in the year."**

Coats said his team expects to have its hands full with the other Warriors come Saturday.

"Middle Georgia has had a good program since they started football there," he said. "It will be a tough challenge for our kids. 'They're very, very impressive. We're actually scared to death of them to be honest."

Kickoff Saturday at GC Stadium is set for 1 p.m.

**The Brunswick News  
12/5/96**



# Teams Named for Second Annual Golden Isles Bowl

By KEVIN PRICE

Assistant Sports Editor

With now just three weeks remaining until the Second Annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic, the process to select the two participating teams has been completed.

The two teams picked for this year's Dec. 7 game at Glynn County Stadium are Middle Georgia College of Cochran, which will serve as the host school, and East Central Community College of Decatur, Miss.

Frank Inman, chairman of the bowl committee, made the announcement of the teams at a 2 p.m. press conference today at the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce.

"The success of last year's inaugural game led us into our second annual game, and we're extremely pleased to announce today that Middle Georgia College of Cochran will be the host team for 1996," Inman said. "It is also with great pleasure that we are pleased to announce today that East Central Community College of Mississippi has also agreed to come."

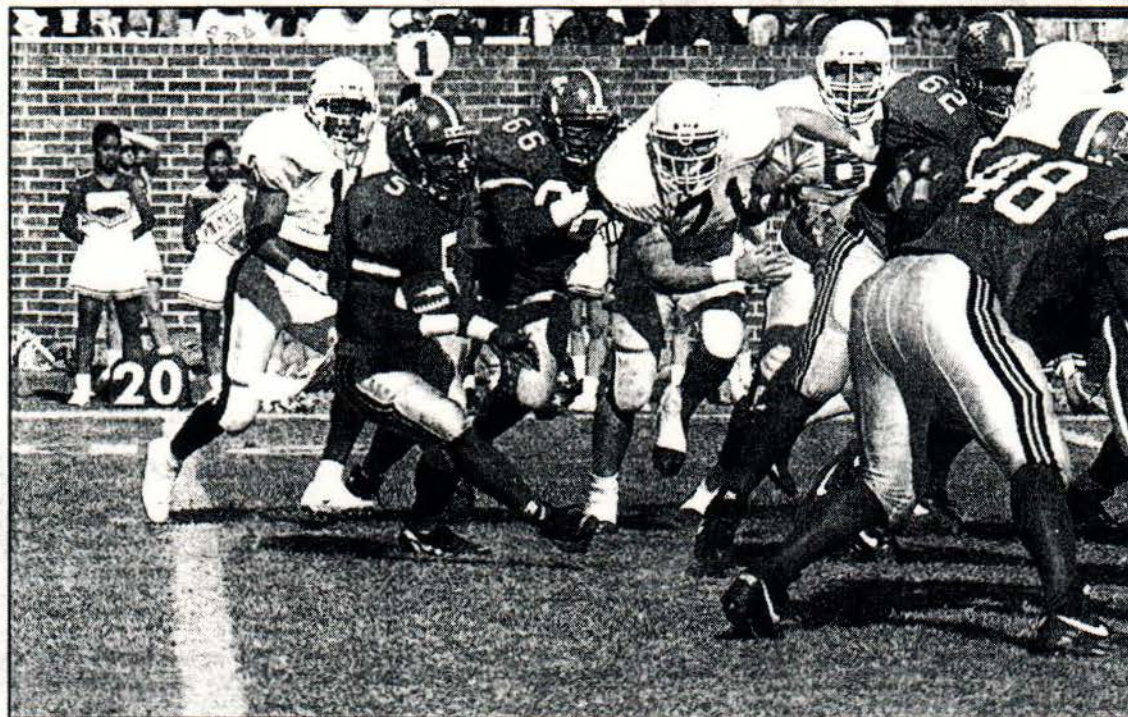
Middle Georgia secured its first bid to the local bowl by defeating the Troy State Junior Varsity team 27-6 last night in Troy, Ala. With the win, the Warriors finished the regular season with an 8-3 record. They will enter the Golden Isles Bowl unranked, but a postseason win likely would place them in the final rankings.

The Warriors defeated Georgia Military College of Milledgeville, the host of the inaugural Golden Isles Bowl, by 28-21 earlier this season. Georgia Military finished the season unranked with a 7-3 record. Middle Georgia and Georgia Military are the only junior college schools in the state with football programs.

"It was a very close race to determine which team from Georgia would be represented," Inman said. "But Middle Georgia won the head-to-head competition."

The three criteria used by the bowl committee to select the state's representative include the head-to-head winner, overall record and national ranking.

Last year, the Warriors of head coach Dennis Roland defeated Hutchinson Community College of Kansas 42-37 in



## MVP Performance

Georgia Military's sophomore tailback Ronnie Bradley from Albany looks for running room in the first-ever Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl played last December at Glynn County Stadium. Bradley was named the game's MVP after running for 184 yards and three touchdowns, helping GMC to a 48-15 romp over Lackawanna of Scranton, Pa. This year's bowl participants will be Middle Georgia College of Cochran and East Central Community College of Decatur, Miss. They were officially announced at a press conference today. (News Photo/Jerry Matherly)

seconds left in the game.

With its bowl victory, Middle Georgia finished tied for seventh in the final national rankings with a 10-2 record. Hutchinson ended up ninth with an also 10-2 record.

Meanwhile, the East Central Warriors are currently 9-0 and are ranked fifth in the latest juco national poll, released just this week. The Warriors are one of only five teams in the country with an unblemished record. They finished 8-2 last season.

East Central will play Hinds Community College (6-3), also of Mississippi, for the state's South Division Championship this Saturday. The winner will host the state championship game against Holmes Community College of Goodman, Miss., Nov. 23.

Because the next poll will not be released until after all the bowl games are played, the Warriors will come to town as the highest-ranked team to participate in the Golden Isles Bowl in its short history.

In last year's inaugural contest,

dogs were ranked fourth in the final poll with a 10-1 record following their bowl victory. Lackawanna ended the season 8-3 and finished outside the Top15, though they did receive some votes for the final poll.

The Golden Isles Bowl is one of just seven junior college bowl games in the country and the only one played east of the Mississippi River.

"Based on last year's exciting game we can anticipate nothing but another outstanding afternoon of college football in Glynn County Stadium," Inman said. "It was a good football game last year and it will be again."

Designed to promote junior college football particularly in Georgia, but most importantly to raise money to support Glynn County's middle school athletics program now in its second year, last year's game was no doubt a huge success. According to Inman, \$83,000 was cleared from the game and the money raised completely covered the expenses of

to help start soccer, track and swimming for both boys and girls this year in addition to the other already existing sports in the county's three middle schools.

"We can forget everything about football," Inman said. "What we need to realize is that football in this case is a means to a goal that every citizen in Glynn County should wish to see happen. "Middle school athletics is something all of us should care about because it affects the opportunities of roughly 3,000 student-athletes."

"We need the community to be at this game to provide funds for our own local program," he added. "We've been able to more than double the opportunities for the kids already, and all these things indicate the importance of this game. If we can put at least 10,000 people in the stands, we can have the best middle school program in the state. The money will be there to do that."

Kickoff for this year's game is again set for 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students

The Brunswick News 11/15/96



## KP's Corner



By Kevin Price

### A Season Marred by Tragedy

Talk about riding an emotional roller coaster. The East Central Community College Warriors have done just that this season.

This fall has been one of triumph and tragedy for the ECCC gridmen of Decatur, Miss., who will face Middle Georgia College (8-3) in next Saturday's second annual Golden Isles Bowl at Glynn County Stadium.

The 9-1 and ninth-ranked Warriors posted their best record since 1939, when the team finished 10-0 and won their only state championship.

But their remarkable season has been marred by tragedy, which struck the team midway through the campaign.

The day prior to the annual Homecoming game Oct. 12 against perennial national power Hinds Community College, freshman Nathan Russell died as a result of injuries sustained in an



automobile accident two days earlier.

The 18-year-old Russell, a special teams player and a backup strong safety, was a front-seat passenger in an automobile carrying five ECCC male students which collided with another vehicle containing three other males. Two were members of the school's basketball team.

The accident took place less than an hour after the Homecoming bonfire pep rally held on the south end of campus.

One of the basketball players, Lance Jones of Decatur, remains hospitalized, but is expected to be discharged in early December and continue his physical therapy.

The other students injured in the fatal crash, which caused six of the seven involved in the mishap to be hospitalized, were treated and released within a week after the accident. Some, however, are still recovering from their injuries.

Services for Russell, who was buried in his No. 20 jersey, were held

MRVF-1

The Brunswick News  
11/27/96

A scholarship in Russell's honor has been established at the Bank of Forest in his hometown of Forest, Miss. Special ceremonies to retire his jersey will be held during a basketball game later this year.

"He was one of the best young men I've ever coached," said Warrior head coach Willie Coats in a statement released to The News. "Nathan was a Christian and the kind of young man a father would want his own son to grow up and be like."

"He gave his all on the football field, a 100 percent effort at all times," Coats added. "We never had a problem with him. If I had 50 kids like Nathan Russell, coaching would be easy and very pleasurable. He was just a great person."

With the cooperation of Hinds and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges, East Central officials postponed the homecoming game following Russell's death, but other homecoming festivities went on as scheduled.

The Warriors went to battle without Russell for the first time the next weekend against Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. In the division matchup, which ECCC won 28-23, the players had "20 NR" displayed on the back of their helmets in memory of their fallen teammate.

The ECC-Hinds game was played just recently on Nov. 16, and the Warriors suffered their only loss as Hinds won 45-7 to clinch the South Division title and earn a trip to the state title game.

I will say only the following about this unfortunate incident: If the Warriors were able fight through their emotions to finish out their season with enough wins to earn a bowl bid, you could surely honor them with your presence at GC Stadium next Saturday.

Any team that can overcome such adversity deserves to play its final game of the season before a packed house, and of course, Middle Georgia would like to be known as the first host of a sold-out Golden Isles Bowl.

Be there! Next Saturday at 1 p.m. Everything else can be put on the back burner. Yes, even the Christmas shopping!



# Warriors Set Sights on Winning!!



ECCC  
13  
36  
20  
20  
22  
28  
45  
20  
41  
7

OPPONENTS  
Holmes 6  
NEMCC 7  
NWMCC 15  
Itawamba 17  
PRCC 15  
Gulf Coast 23  
Jones (HC) 26  
Co-Lin 14  
SWMCC 6  
Hinds CC 45

**“P**ersistence prevails when all else fails.” This statement sums up the feelings and actions of the EC Warriors football squad. The team hit the gridiron hot and heavy this year after a record 2-8 season in 1995. The return of 19 lettermen and four coaches to the field meant there was no holding back. In addition to a great new recruiting class and a new defensive lineman coach, the '96 Warriors refused to be the MISSISSIPPI WHIPPING BOY. During the training season, the team set a personal goal of going 10-0. With a great new outlook and a goal in mind, the Warriors took off for a great start in a heavy campaign. Game after game, the Warriors surprised their fans and began to build the confidence that is deserved of a Warrior.

As the team entered the field during each game, a

new era of EC football began. Coach Willie Coats, in his second year at the Warrior helm, took a great group of young and experienced players and made them a GREAT TEAM. Coach Jon Williams joined as the new defensive lineman coach this season and brought some much needed experience and abilities with him. The greatness that began will continue for a long time after this Warrior squad is gone.

After an upsetting loss to the HCC Eagles, the Warriors fell short of reaching their goal but still experienced the thrill of a bowl game invitation. On December 7, 1996, the Warriors faced off with the Middle Georgia College Warriors in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic. As EC's finest headed for Brunswick, Georgia, hearts beat fast; would our team “bring home the gold”?



**Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Champs**

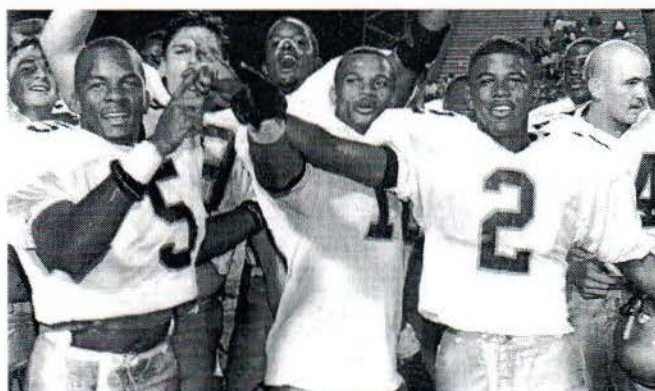




# WARRIORS-BOWL BOUND!!!



ECCC FOOTBALL TEAM (1st row L to R): Xavier Thomas, Calvin Williams, Shaun Walker, William Johnson, Ashanti Webb, Mack Pittman, Mark Thomas, Kemba Bryant, Al Hunt, Ernie Stribling, Jake Kizziah, Calvin Johnson, Chris Arrington; (2nd row): Joey Pinkston, Nathan Russell, Derrell Reed, Joseph Anders, Chris Crosby, Tim Livingston, Jeff Rowell, Billy Singleton, Edwin Moore, Steve Bradford, Jimmy Kincaid, Zachary Sanders, William Curry, Terry Dugas; (3rd row): Brad Evans (manager), Kevin Blanks, Neal Keeton, Chad Neese, Delvin Rainer, Byron Johnson, Bo Thomas, Wilbert Holmes, Tyquan Taylor, Dejuan Clark, Ryan Stokley, Charles Pease, Gary Ashford, Brian Harpole, Patrick Bacon (manager); (4th row): Earl Truss, Russel McCann, Corey Hamler, Jason Nixon, Letrail Cistrunk, coaches Fredrick Lyons, Juan Beckum, Willie Coats (head), Jon Williams, Timmy Coats and Terry Underwood; Cyrus Ben, Undeon Hardy, Horace Nash, Kendrick Clancy.



Warriors cheer for their 1st victory!

Warriors break huddle for another victory!



#59 asks for a play from the sideline.



# FANTASTIC SEASON

The Mack Truck coming at cha!

"Hey sports fans, watch this arm," says Al Hunt, 312.

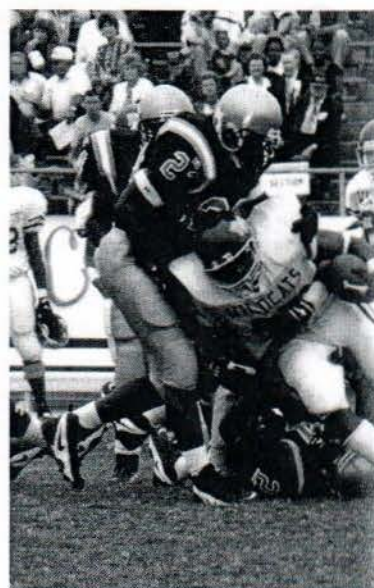
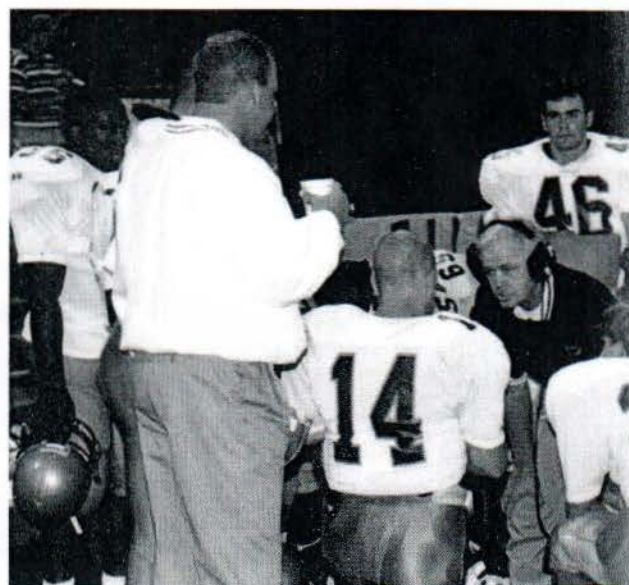
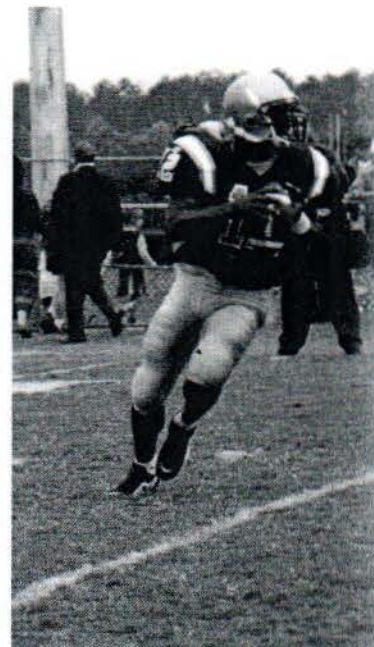
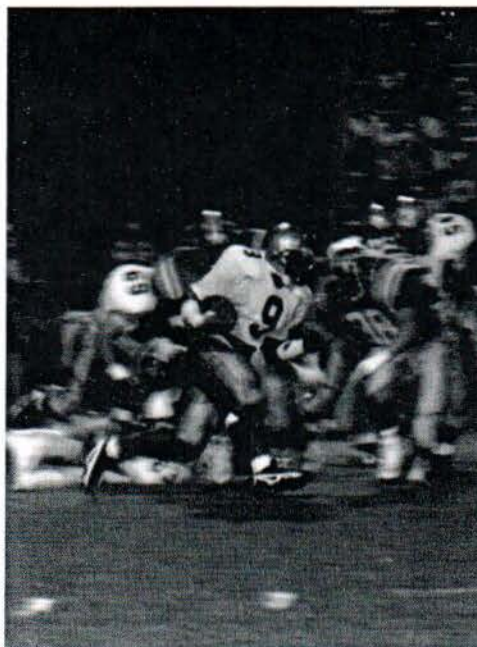
Mack gives #6 from PRC a quick stop and go.

Warrior pep talk from Coach Coats.

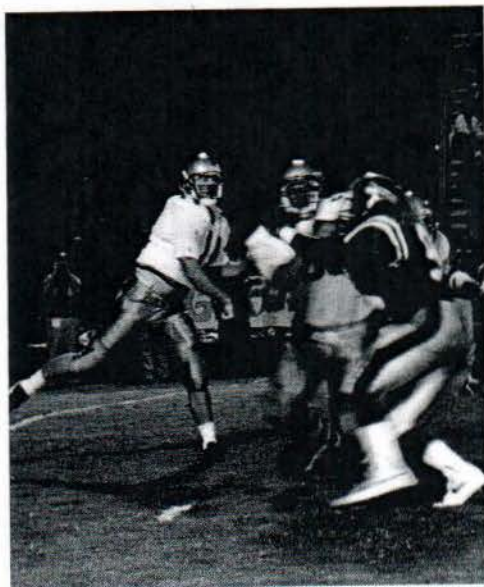
Bradford #36 makes a run for the goal.

Livingston #26 is in a tight hold from NEMCC #15.

Reed gives PRC no hole to go thru.







## WARRIOR MOMENTS

#9 on the ball.

#99 is ready and waiting for the snap.

#12 found a hole and is going for it.

Coach Williams and his BOYS!!

#53 asks "Where's the ball?"

A trainer's job is never done.

Jake has the ball off to complete the pass.





# HUDDLE HOUSE GOLDEN ISLES BOWL

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Inman  
*Chairman*

Tom Fuller  
Derrick Hulsey  
Dorothy Lord  
Carl Paschal  
Bert Whitaker  
Woody Woodside

*ex officio*  
Jack Hartman  
David C. Mosely  
Ron Rumley

## AGENDA

### HUDDLE HOUSE/GOLDEN ISLE BOWL BANQUET RAMADA INN, JEKYLL ISLAND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1996 7:30 P. M.

#### WELCOME

Frank Inman, Bowl Chairman

#### INVOCATION

Derrick Hulsey, Athletic Director  
Glynn County Schools

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Michelle Miller  
Bert Whitaker  
Golden Sponsors  
Committee Members

Frank Inman  
Ramada Inn and Staff  
S. E. GA Reg. Medical Center

Tom Fuller, Jack Hartman,  
Derrick Hulsey, Dr. Dorothy Lord,  
Dr. David Mosely, Carl Paschal,  
Bert Whitaker, Woody Woodside,  
and Ron Rumley

John Rieber

President, Huddle House Inc.

#### PRESIDENTIAL EXCHANGES

Middle Georgia College  
East Central Community College

Dr. Joe Ben Welch  
Dr. Eddie M. Smith

#### SPEAKER

Dr. John Connell, First Baptist Church  
Brunswick, GA

#### TEAM INTRODUCTIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Coach Dennis Roland,  
Middle Georgia College

Coach Willie Coats  
East Central Community College

#### CLOSING REMARKS

Frank Inman



Be it known to all persons that the Board of Trustees of East Central Community College in desiring to express appreciation to the 1996 Warrior Football Team and Coaches makes the following resolution.

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Board of Trustees to recognize and commend excellence; and

WHEREAS, the East Central Community College Warrior Football Team had an exceptional season, finishing with a 10-1 record; and

WHEREAS, the Warriors were ranked nationally all season and finished with a number five ranking nationally; and

WHEREAS, the Warriors, led by Head Coach Willie Coats, and Assistant Coaches Terry Underwood, Timmy Coats, Fredrick Lyons, and Jon Williams, committed themselves to a team effort for excellence, thereby paving the way for the team's success; and

WHEREAS, Coach Willie Coats was named the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges' South Division Football Coach of the Year; and

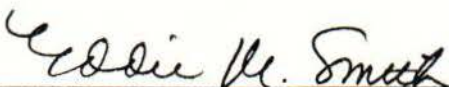
WHEREAS, the Warriors climaxed their season with a 7-6 win over Middle Georgia College in the Second Annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic held on December 7, 1996, in Brunswick, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Mack Pittman, freshman running back from Panama City, Florida, set a Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic record with 197 yards rushing on 32 carries and received the team's most valuable player award.

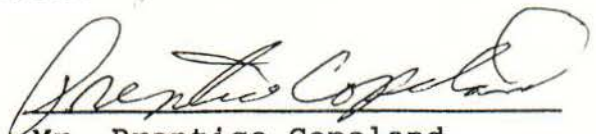
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, that we do hereby commend and congratulate the 1996 Warrior Football Team and Coaching Staff for their exceptionally outstanding season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be provided to the team members and the coaches and that this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Trustees.

ADOPTED THIS THE 17TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1996.



Dr. Eddie M. Smith  
President



Mr. Prentice Copeland  
Chairman



MRVF-1  
ECCU

# EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

601-635-2111

November 18, 1996

Mr. Frank E. Inman, Chairman  
Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl  
Glynn County Schools  
Athletic Department  
1313 Egmont Street  
Brunswick, GA 31520

Dear Mr. Inman:

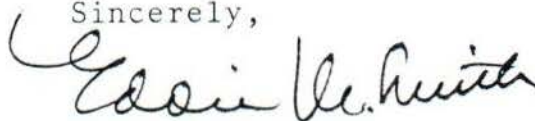
Enclosed is the signed original agreement for the participation of East Central Community College in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic in Brunswick, Georgia, on December 7, 1996.

Again, we at East Central are extremely excited to have the opportunity to participate in this bowl game. We know that this will be an experience long-remembered and greatly treasured.

Please contact me as needed.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,



Eddie M. Smith  
President

EMS:las

cc: Coach Willie Coats  
Coach Sammy Pace





## HUDDLE HOUSE GOLDEN ISLES BOWL CLASSIC

### AGREEMENT

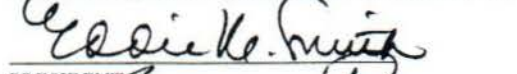

**THIS AGREEMENT**, made in duplicate November 11, 1996, between **East Central Community College** and the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic stipulates:

- I. That the football team representing the above named institution shall compete in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic at Brunswick, Georgia on December 7, 1996 at 1 PM in the Glynn County Stadium.
- II. Participating teams are to provide their own medical insurance.
- III. Guarantees to the Visiting Team:
  1. Hotel accommodations for a party of 50 football players and 10 VIP's and/or coaches. (30 rooms/ 2 individuals per room)
  2. \$3000.00 Travel Allowance
  3. Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic Commemorative watches for sixty persons.
  4. Sixty (60) Bowl Game shirts and hats.
  5. (A) Team Trophy to Champion  
(B) MVP Trophy to individual player from each team  
(C) One Championship NJCAA game ball
  6. Invitations for sixty (60) persons (Players, Coaches/or VIP's) for:
    - (A) Low Country Boil Dinner Thursday Evening
    - (B) Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic Championship Breakfast on Friday Morning
    - (C) Bar-B-Que Lunch Friday Noon
    - (D) Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic Awards Banquet Friday Evening
    - (E) Pre Game Meal Saturday Morning
    - (F) Post Game Meal Saturday Afternoon
  7. VIP Luncheon at Coastal Georgia Community College on Saturday.

HUDDLE HOUSE GOLDEN ISLE BOWL CLASSIC

  
CHAIRMAN

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

  
PRESIDENT  
  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR





# HUDDLE HOUSE GOLDEN ISLES BOWL

---

November 14, 1996

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Inman  
*Chairman*

Tom Fuller  
Derrick Hulsey  
Dorothy Lord  
Carl Paschal  
Bert Whitaker  
Woody Woodside

*ex officio*  
Jack Hartman  
David C. Mosely  
Ron Rumley

Dr. Eddie Smith  
East Central Community College  
P. O. Box 129  
Decatur, MS 39327-0129

Dear Dr. Smith:

Enclosed is the original agreement for the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic.

We received the faxed signed copy of this agreement, but we would appreciate you completing and returning the enclosed original.

Thank you for your cooperation, we look forward to seeing you in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

*Frank*

Frank E. Inman  
Chairman



# **EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
Bubby Johnston, Director  
Jarrod Ravencraft, Assistant

Telephone  
601-635-2111

TO: Dr. Eddie M. Smith

FROM: Bubby Johnston *BJ*

DATE: December 4, 1996

RE: Bowl Game

As far as I know, your services will be needed at the following activities:

- 1) Breakfast at 8 a.m. Friday, December 6 (You are scheduled to receive a key to the city of Brunswick by Mayor Wilson and make brief remarks.) Coach Coats will accept if you are unable to attend.
- 2) Awards Banquet at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 6. (You and the Middle Georgia College president are to exchange gifts and make brief remarks.) Coat and tie required.
- 3) Parade at 10 a.m. Saturday, December 7. You and Charlotte are to ride in the parade.
- 4) Other activities for you to participate are listed in the agenda attached.







# Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl

AGENDA FOR HUDDLE HOUSE/ GOLDEN ISLES BOWL CLASSIC  
December 5-7, 1996

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Inman  
Chairman

Tom Fuller

Derrick Hulsey

Dorothy Lord

Carl Paschal

Bert Whitaker

Woody Woodside

ex officio

Jack Hartman

David C. Mosely

Ron Rumley

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

**1:30 PM** Teams arrive in Golden Isles:

1. Police escort meets teams at county line
2. Middle Georgia College check in at Ramada Inn of Jekyll
3. East Central Community College check in at Comfort Inn
4. Teams welcomed at hotels by Bowl Committee and local officials
5. Welcome gifts will be in rooms for each of the participants of the bowl
6. Courtesy automobiles will be provided for VIP'S

**2:15 PM** Teams depart motels for Jekyll Island Dock

**2:30 PM** Board boats for trip to St. Simons Island Marina

**3:30 PM** Depart St. Simons Marina by bus for practice areas  
Middle Georgia College to practice at Glynn Academy  
East Central Community College to practice at Brunswick High School

**5:30 PM** Teams depart practice for motels

**6:00 PM** Teams arrive at hotels  
Free time and preparation for low country boil - (Dress casual)

**7:20 PM** East Central Community College depart Comfort Inn for Ramada Inn and Low Country Boil

**7:30 PM** Low Country Boil - Ramada Inn, Jekyll Island  
Attendees will be the bowl teams, VIP'S, and Bowl Committee members  
Low Country Boil will be located on the Ocean Deck at Ramada  
(indoors if bad weather)  
Music and entertainment  
**PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS**

**9:30 PM** East Central Community College depart for Comfort Inn  
Free time - snacks

Frank Inman • 120 Shore Rush Drive • St. Simons Island, GA 31522 • (912) 638-5989 • FAX (912) 265-2011  
Glynn County Schools • Athletic Department • 1313 Egmont Street • Brunswick, GA 31520 • (912) 267-4100





# Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chairman

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Woody Woodside

*ex officio*

Jack Hartman

David C. Mosely

Ron Rumley

## AGENDA HUDDLE HOUSE/ GOLDEN ISLES BOWL CLASSIC

page 2

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:30 AM

Depart motels for breakfast:

1. Hosted by First Baptist Church in Brunswick
2. Dress will be casual

8:00 AM

**BREAKFAST - (PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS)**

Attendees will be VIP'S, coaches, teams, and cheerleaders

9:30 AM

Depart for tour of Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

9:45 AM

Orientation and tour of Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

1. Orientation by FLETC official on facility with 72 federal law enforcement agencies
2. Tour facility and see firearms training demonstration

11:30 AM

Depart Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

12:00 NOON

1. Arrive Jekyll Island Golf Club
2. Lunch at Jekyll Island Golf Club
3. Teams, coaches, VIP'S, Bowl Committee, Cheerleaders
4. Putting and long drive contest involving players and coaches

12:50-1:25 PM

VIP Golf - (Pine Lakes back side - 6 starting times for 24 players or VIP shopping tour)

2:00 PM

Teams depart golf club for motels

3:00 PM

Depart motels for team workouts

4:00-5:00 PM

Team workouts and stadium walk through

5:30 PM

Depart team workout locations for respective motels

6:00 PM

Teams arrive motel

1. Free time until bowl banquet at Ramada Inn - (dress will be coat & tie)

7:20 PM

East Central Community College depart for Ramada Inn

7:30 PM

**Banquet - (PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS)**

1. Banquet hosted by Southeast Georgia Regional Medical Center
2. Players will be introduced individually and presented bowl watches

9:30 PM

Banquet adjourns

East Central Community College departs for Comfort Inn - Free time & snacks

Frank Inman • 120 Shore Rush Drive • St. Simons Island, GA 31522 • (912) 638-5989 • FAX (912) 265-2011  
Glynn County Schools • Athletic Department • 1313 Egmont Street • Brunswick, GA 31520 • (912) 267-4100





# Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Inman  
Chairman

Tom Fuller  
Derrick Hulsey  
Dorothy Lord  
Carl Paschal  
Bert Whitaker

Woody Woodside

*ex officio*

Jack Hariman  
David C. Mosely  
Ron Rumley

## AGENDA HUDDLE HOUSE/GOLDEN ISLES BOWL CLASSIC page 3

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:45 AM

College presidents/athletic directors, bands, and cheerleaders depart for Christmas /Bowl Parade in downtown Brunswick. These guests are featured honorees.

9:00 AM

Pre game team breakfast at host motel

10:00-11:00 AM Christmas parade for participating VIP'S, bands, and cheerleaders

11:15 AM

Bands and cheerleaders depart parade for stadium and lunch.  
VIP'S depart parade for VIP luncheon at Coastal Georgia Community College

12:15-12:30 PM

VIP'S depart luncheon for Glynn County Stadium (stadium is located adjacent to college campus)

### TEAM DEPARTURE

Time to be determined -

Bowl team participants depart hotels for game (times to be determined in coordination with college coaches and bowl officials)

1:00 PM

Huddle House/Golden Isles Bowl Classic kickoff

### POST GAME:

Teams depart stadium

Post game meal will be provided on buses

Frank Inman • 120 Shore Rush Drive • St. Simons Island, GA 31522 • (912) 638-5989 • FAX (912) 265-2011  
Glynn County Schools • Athletic Department • 1313 Egmont Street • Brunswick, GA 31520 • (912) 267-4100



# **EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## **===== BAND DEPARTMENT =====**

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327 • TELEPHONE 601/635-4324

THOMAS CARSON

*Band Director*

JOHNNY MAY

*Assistant*



November 12, 1996

TO: Dr. Eddie M. Smith, President

FROM: Tom Carson, Director of Bands

SUBJECT: Estimated cost to carry the full band to Brunswick GA for game Dec. 7

MEALS: 120 Students X 6 meals at \$5.00 each  
3 Adults X 2 days at \$24.00 each per day

TOTAL MEALS: \$3,744.00

HOTEL: 33 rooms(4 per room and 2 adult rooms) X \$40.00 per room

TOTAL ROOMS: \$1,320.00

BUSES: "The Express" out of Hattiesburg for 3 buses

TOTAL BUSES: \$7,920.00

TOTAL ESTIMATE: \$12,984.00



# ELLS BOWL

DECEMBER 7, 1996





# **EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

601-635-2111

MESSAGE FROM  
DR. EDDIE M. SMITH  
ECCC PRESIDENT

On behalf of the administration, faculty, staff, student body, and alumni of East Central Community College, I want to express our appreciation to the officials of the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic for inviting our Warrior football team to participate in this outstanding event.

We have looked forward with great anticipation and enthusiasm to this weekend's activities which will involve not only our nationally-ranked Warrior football team but also the ECCC Wall O' Sound Marching Band, and our outstanding football cheerleading squad.

We are experiencing a great year at East Central Community College. Several of our student athletes from the class of 1996 were selected to receive various NJCAA honors; a record 1,828 students are enrolled in regular college courses this fall; we have served an additional 524 people enrolled in Adult Basic Education and 2,993 in the industrial training programs for a total enrollment of 3,617; we recently held the dedication ceremonies for our new Associate Degree Nursing/Child Care Technology Building; a 95 percent pass rate on the State Board Exam was earned by our 1996 Associate Degree Nursing graduates, and a 100 percent pass rate was achieved by our 1996 graduates in the Licensed Practical Nursing Program on the State Board Exam. Many other outstanding things have taken place during the current fall term, and we look forward to an even more successful spring semester.

Again, thanks to all who were responsible for inviting ECCC to the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic. Our players, coaches, and other college representatives will remember this historic weekend for many years to come.

If we at East Central Community College can ever be of service to you, please call upon us at any time.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Eddie M. Smith





# EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 2, 1997

Dear Joe,

Enclosed are a couple of photos I  
thought that you might like to have.

Best wishes for the New Year!

Sincerely,

Gddie



MRVF -1

# EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

ECCC

DRAFT

November 15, 1996

N/A

Dear Friend of East Central,

So many good things are happening at East Central Community College. We are experiencing a record enrollment with over 1800 students for the first time. Our campus facilities have been greatly improved and just this week we dedicated The Nursing/Childcare Technology Building which is the first building constructed for instruction only in the past twenty years. Many other exciting things are taking place on our campus that all of our alumni and supporters can be proud of.

Our 1996 Warrior Football Team has just completed their most successful season since 1939. They are currently nationally ranked as the 5th placed team in the nation with a 9-0 record. Because of their success, they have been invited to participate in The Huddle House Golden Isle Bowl Classic in Brunswick, Georgia on December 7, 1996. The bowl is funding most of the expenses for the football team but we must raise the money to send our superior "Wall O'Sound" Warrior Marching Band, The Centralettes and our cheerleaders to this exciting event. In order to do this, we need to raise \$20,000.00 very quickly.

Would you please consider a Tax-deductible contribution to help us send these deserving students to this Bowl Game. East Central Community will receive much publicity that should enhance our athletic recruiting as well as our general student recruiting.

Thank you for caring about East Central Community College and for helping us send these deserving students to this most prestigious event.

Sincerely Yours,

Eddie M. Smith  
President

Enclosure - Brochure





MDVF-1

# EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ECCC

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 20, 1996

601-635-2111

Chief Phillip Martin  
Tribal Office Building  
P. O. Box 6010  
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Dear Chief Martin:

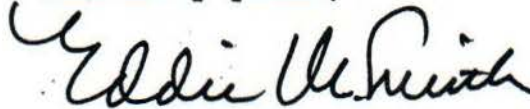
On behalf of the entire East Central Community College family, I want to thank you and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for the very, very generous contribution of \$3,000.00 to help to defray the travel costs for the ECCC Warrior Marching Band as the band traveled to the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic in Brunswick, Georgia, in early December. Your gift will help greatly in covering the costs for this exciting and rewarding trip.

We are so grateful to you and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for your consideration and support of our College. We always want to be considered your community college. And, we certainly pledge our continued assistance to the Tribe in every possible way.

Thanks again and best wishes.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Eddie M. Smith  
President

EMS:mjn

cc: Mr. Tom Carson  
Mr. Larry Hogue

bcc: Mrs. Nell Rogers





MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS  
OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL CHIEF



TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING  
POST OFFICE BOX 6010  
PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI 39350  
TELEPHONE (601) 656-5251  
FAX (601) 656-7333


December 12, 1996

Dr. Eddie M. Smith  
President  
East Central Community College  
Decatur, MS 39327

Dear Dr. Smith:

Enclosed please find a check for \$3,000 as a contribution from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians toward defraying the travel costs for the ECCC Warrior Marching Band to the bowl game in Georgia. Congratulations on the bowl invitation and win. Please convey my best wishes to the team members and to the band members for their excellent performances this year.

Sincerely,

  
Phillip Martin,  
Tribal Chief

PM:tim

Enclosure



**EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

MRVF-1  
**ECCC**

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 12, 1996

Mr. Ryan Stokely  
4278 Hillsboro Road  
Morton, MS 39117

Dear Ryan:

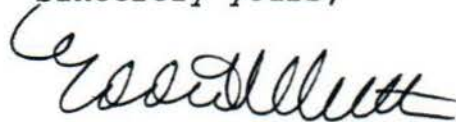
Please accept my sincere congratulations for the outstanding Warrior victory over Middle Georgia College in the 1996 Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic. You worked hard and played hard this year and certainly deserved the opportunity to participate in this outstanding event.

We also congratulate you and all of the Warriors for being ranked number five (5) in the nation in the final NJCAA polls! We are so very proud of you!

Thank you for the contributions you made to the 1996 Warrior football team. We appreciate you and wish the best for you in the future.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Eddie M. Smith  
President

EMS:mjn

cc: Coach Willie Coats





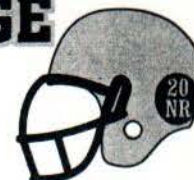


47  
Merge file



# College and East Central Community College Golden Isles Bowl Classic, December 7, 1996

## EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE WARRIORS



HEAD COACH: WILLIE COATS

ASSISTANT COACHES: TERRY UNDERWOOD, TIMMY COATS,  
FREDRICK LYONS, JON WILLIAMS, JUAN BECKUM

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	CLS	HOME TOWN
1	Xavier Thomas	SS	5'11"	205	S	Holt, AL
2	Calvin Williams	WR	5'11"	185	S	Walnut Grove, MS
3	XShaun Walker	K/P	5'9"	163	F	Morton, MS
5	XWilliam Johnson	LB	5'11"	205	F	Newton, MS
7	XAshanti Webb	CB	5'11"	182	S	Tampa, FL
9	XMack Pittman	RB	5'9"	235	F	Panama City, FL
10	XMark Thomas	CB	5'10"	185	S	Tuscaloosa, AL
11	XKemba Bryant	LB	6'1"	215	S	Atlanta, GA
12	XAl Hunt	QB/P	5'10"	196	F	Honea Path, SC
13	XErnie Stribling	FS	5'11"	163	F	Walnut Grove, MS
14	XJake Kizziah	QB	6'2"	205	S	Tuscaloosa, AL
15	XCalvin Johnson	WR	5'10"	175	F	Newton, MS
18	XChris Arrington	TE	6'0"	232	F	Newton, MS
19	XJoey Pinkston	FS	6'0"	170	F	Forest, MS
21	XDerrell Reed	RB	5'10"	205	S	Forest, MS
23	XJoseph Anders	FS	6'1"	192	F	Tuscaloosa, AL
24	XKenny Kelly	LB	6'2"	205	F	Panama City, FL
25	XChris Crosby	CB	5'10"	150	F	Louisville, MS
26	XTim Livingston	FB	5'10"	170	S	Carthage, MS
33	XJeff Rowell	LB	5'11"	205	S	Tuscaloosa, AL
34	XBilly Singleton	FB	6'1"	190	F	Philadelphia, MS
35	XEdwin Moore	CB	5'9"	200	F	Noxapater, MS
36	XSteve Bradford	FB	6'0"	226	S	Forest, MS
39	XJimmy Kincaid	LB	6'0"	204	S	Morton, MS
40	XZach Sanders	LB	5'11"	200	F	Philadelphia, MS
42	XWilliam Curry	DE	6'1"	241	F	Tuscaloosa, AL
44	XKevin Blanks	DL	6'1"	236	S	Meridian, MS
45	XNeal Keeton	DE	6'1"	245	S	Morton, MS
46	XChad Neese	FB	6'1"	182	F	Philadelphia, MS
51	XDelvin Rainer	DL	6'2"	231	F	Tuscaloosa, AL
52	XByron Johnson	DL	6'1"	256	F	Louisville, MS
53	XBo Thomas	SG	6'4"	280	F	Morrow, GA
54	XDemarcus Holmes	C	5'11"	256	S	Louisville, MS
56	XTyquan Taylor	DL	5'11"	236	F	Louisville, MS
58	XDejuan Clark	LB	6'0"	212	F	Tuscaloosa, AL
59	XRyan Stokley	QT	6'1"	257	S	Morton, MS
60	XCharles Pease	QG	6'2"	252	F	Nanhi Waiya, MS
66	XBrian Harpole	C	6'2"	276	F	Tuscaloosa, AL
67	XEarl Truss	NG	6'1"	232	S	Edinburg, MS
69	XRussell McCann	QG	5'11"	244	S	Conehatta, MS
71	XCorey Hamler	NG	6'1"	303	F	Charleston, WV
73	XJason Nixon	ST	6'3"	275	F	Seminole, GA
74	XLetrail Cistrunk	ST	6'6"	280	S	Louisville, MS
76	XCyrus Ben	SG	6'0"	232	F	Philadelphia, MS
83	XUndeon Hardy	TE	6'2"	237	F	Philadelphia, MS
88	XHorace Nash	WR	6'2"	196	F	Carthage, MS
99	XKendrick Clancy	DL	6'2"	263	F	Tuscaloosa, MS



As Sent to:

Xavier Thomas  
Calvin Williams  
Shaun Walker  
William Johnson  
Ashanti Webb  
Mack Pittman  
Mark Thomas  
Kemba Bryant  
Al Hunt  
Ernie Stribling  
Jake Kizziah  
Calvin Johnson  
Chris Arrington  
Joey Pinkston  
Derrell Reed  
Joseph Anders  
Kenny Kelly  
Chris Crosby  
Tim Livingston  
Jeff Rowell  
Billy Singleton  
Edwin Moore  
Steve Bradford  
Jimmy Kincaid  
Zach Sanders  
William Curry  
Kevin Blanks  
Neal Keeton  
Chad Neese  
Delvin Rainer  
Byron Johnson  
Bo Thomas  
Demarcus Holmes  
Tyquan Taylor  
DeJuan Clark  
Ryan Stokely  
Charles Pease  
Brian Harpole  
Earl Truss  
Russell McCann  
Corey Hamler  
Jason Nixon

Letrail Cistrunk  
Cyrus Ben  
Undeon Hardy  
Horace Nash  
Kendrick Clancy



**EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 11, 1996

601-635-2111

Mr. Frank Inman, Chairman  
Board of Directors  
Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic  
120 Shore Rush Drive  
St. Simon Island, GA 31522

Dear Coach Inman:

I want to take this opportunity to again thank you, the Board of Directors, and all of the many people associated with the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic for making this one of the finest events with which our football team, coaches, and college personnel have ever been associated. You did a superior job in planning for and carrying out this spectacular event!

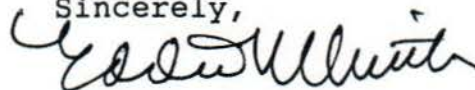
If I were asked for opinions as to how the bowl classic might be improved, I would suggest none. Every detail was addressed with finesse of the highest calibre.

I also want to thank you for including the spiritual emphasis in the schedule of events. So often this is either overlooked or ignored. The breakfast at First Baptist Church on Friday morning with the comments made there and the very fine address made by Dr. John Connell at the banquet that evening were most appropriate and greatly appreciated.

Thank you for inviting the East Central Community College Warriors to participate in the Second Annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic. It shall be an experience that we will forever remember and always cherish.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



Eddie M. Smith  
President

EMS:mjn

cc: Board of Directors  
Coach Willie Coats  
Coach Sammy Pace  
Mr. Bubby Johnston



MIRVF-1

# EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ECCC

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

601-635-2111

December 11, 1996

Coach Tenny Coats  
ECCC  
Decatur, MS 39327

Dear Coach Coats:

I want to personally thank you for your outstanding leadership as head football coach at East Central Community College that resulted in probably the best football season ever experienced by our College. Our 9-1 regular season record, the 7-6 victory over Middle Georgia College in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic, the 10-1 overall season record, and the NJCAA final ranking of fifth in the nation made this a season that most presidents and coaches only dream about.

Then, I want to express to you my personal thanks for the manner by which you serve as head football coach at East Central. It is a delightful experience to be associated with you. You have that rare combination of personal qualifications and superior coaching abilities that make for a most enjoyable and highly effective working relationship.

Best wishes and I look forward to our work together in the future.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



Eddie M. Smith  
President

EMS:mjn





# EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

601-635-2111

December 11, 1996

Dr. Dorothy Lord, President  
Brunswick College  
3700 Altama Avenue  
Brunswick, GA 31520-3644

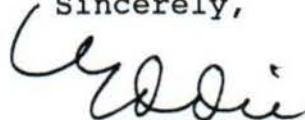
Dear Dorothy:

Please accept my thanks and that of the other guests from East Central Community College for the very warm hospitality that we received while we were in Brunswick for the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic last weekend. Especially, we thank you and the Coastal Georgia Community College family for so graciously hosting the luncheon on your campus on the day of the bowl game. Everything was so nice and your staff members were very, very accommodating.

Best wishes and I shall look forward to our future association.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,



Eddie M. Smith  
President

EMS:mjn



MRVF-1  
ECCC

# EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

601-635-2111

December 11, 1996

Dr. Joe Ben Welch, President  
Middle Georgia College  
1100 Second Street, SE  
Cochran, GA 31014

Dear Dr. Welch:

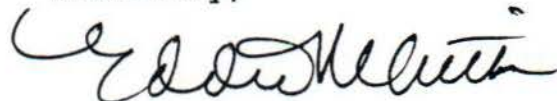
Again, I want to thank you for the wonderful basket of gifts that was presented to me at the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic Banquet held on Friday evening, December 6, 1996. We shall certainly enjoy all of the wonderful "Georgia" items that you shared with us.

We greatly enjoyed being with you, your wife, and all of the other members of the Middle Georgia College family last weekend. We shall always cherish the memories of the occasion.

Best wishes and I will look forward to our future association.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,



Eddie M. Smith  
President

EMS:mjn





MRUF -1  
ECCC

Bowl Game file

MIDDLE GEORGIA COLLEGE

COCHRAN, GEORGIA 31014

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 18, 1996

Dr. Eddie M. Smith  
President  
East Central Community College  
Decatur, Mississippi 39327

Dear Dr. Smith:

It was only after our return home from Nashville, Tennessee that we had a full opportunity to completely go through the wonderful array of items included in your thoughtful gift package. The occasion of the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl, and the many new friends we made from the great state of Mississippi, will be remembered with fondness for many years to come.

Thank you sincerely for the many "Mississippi" treasures you so kindly included in your gift.

It was a pleasure being with you, your lovely wife, and several members of the staff from East Central Community College. You have a fine coaching staff and a quality football team. The ECCC marching band is outstanding and was the envy of all our fans. We plan to field a marching band in the near future and hope that it can be as impressive as yours.

How about a re-match next year?

Sincerely,



Joe Ben Welch  
President

JBW:sp

cc: Dr. Sutphin  
Coach W. Coats  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Lee  
Mr. Hogue  
Mr. Johnston





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Inman  
Chairman

Tom Fuller  
Derrick Hulsey  
Dorothy Lord  
Carl Paschal  
Bert Whitaker  
Woody Woodside

*ex officio*  
Jack Hartman  
David C. Mosely  
Ron Rumley

MRVF-1  
ECCC

# HUDDLE HOUSE GOLDEN ISLES BOWL

December 5, 1996

Dr. Eddie M. Smith, Coach Willie Coats  
Staff, and Team  
East Central Community College  
P. O. Box 129-ZZ  
Decatur, MS 39327-0129

Dear Dr. Eddie M. Smith, Coach Willie Coats, Staff, and Team:

On behalf of our entire bowl committee, I am extremely proud to welcome you to our second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic featuring East Central Community College and Middle Georgia College.

The communities of Jekyll Island, Sea Island, St. Simons Island, and Brunswick, Georgia, which make up our beautiful "Golden Isles", join us in our dedication in making this a memorable event for you and your fans.

May we take this opportunity to congratulate you and East Central Community College for your outstanding 9-1, 1996 football record and for being ranked ninth in the entire country. This is a feat for which you can be justly proud.

Middle Georgia College with a 1996 record of 8-3 will prove to be a formidable opponent and we know we will witness a great game.

Again, thanks for being here and enjoy a great visit. Call on us if we can be of any service to you.

Sincerely,

*Frank E. Inman*  
Frank E. Inman  
Chairman



*Bowl Game Feb*

To Bubby Johnston:

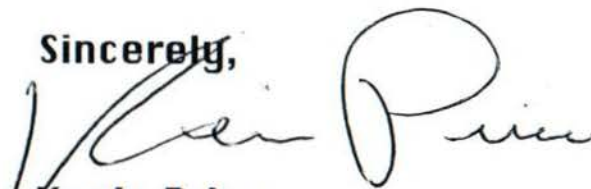
Here are the clippings you requested. Wish we could have done more, but we were swamped with a lot of other stuff as well.

Once again, I appreciate all the press releases you sent us, they were really helpful. And again, thanks for all your cooperation. We also appreciate the cooperation of Coach Coats and his players. You guys really made our jobs here at The News a lot easier.

Congratulations to the team on the bowl win. I could tell from everything I saw that the East Central program is really a class-act operation. Maybe we'll see you again here in the Golden Isles for another bowl game.

Again, congratulations on a fine season. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,



Kevin Price

Assist. Sports Editor

*EGGG*



# EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Bubby Johnston, Director  
Jarrod Ravencraft, Assistant

Telephone  
601-635-2111

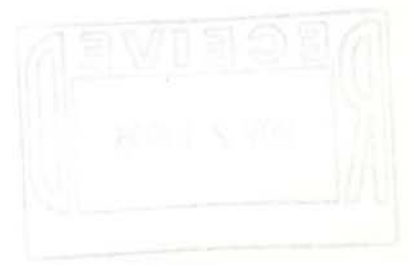
### MEMO

TO: Administration, Faculty and Staff

FROM: Bubby Johnston B.J.

DATE: November 20, 1996

College personnel who plan to attend East Central's football game with Middle Georgia College in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic on Saturday, December 7, and need motel accommodations should contact me (242) regarding reservations. We will be utilizing the Comfort Inn located on Jekyll Island, where the cost per room is \$53.90 including tax. Officials with Comfort Inn have requested that only one contact person (me) be used in making reservations for ECCC personnel and students. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter. (By the way, advance tickets to the bowl game are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Admission on game day is \$10 for everyone. There is no reserved seating for the game, which will be played in the 12,000-seat Glynn County Stadium in Brunswick, Georgia.)





# Huddle Bowl Weekend Trip

\$ 130.00 PER PERSON (2 PER ROOM)

\$ 115.00 PER PERSON (3 PER ROOM)

\$ 100.00 PER PERSON (4 PER ROOM)

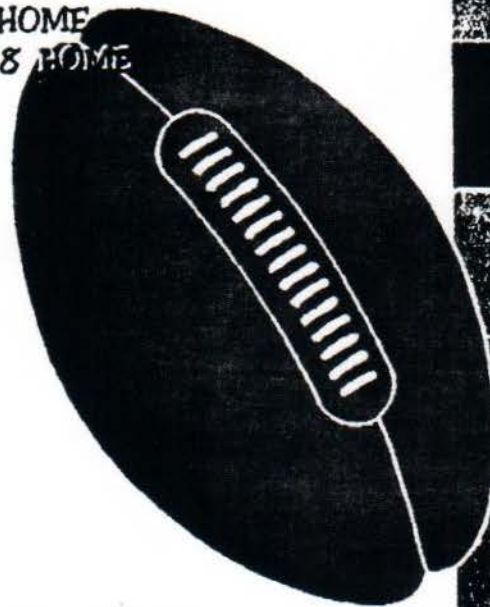
ROUND TRIP AND 2 NIGHTS IN MOTEL 2  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFASTS (COFFEE OR JUICE AND  
A PASTRY) NO OTHER MEALS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS  
PRICE. TICKETS FOR THE BOWL GAME ARE \$5.00 FOR  
STUDENTS AND \$ 10.00 ADULTS. THE GLYNN  
COUNTY STADIUM IS 2 MILES FROM THE MOTEL AND  
THERE IS AN OUTLET MALL IN THE AREA. WE ARE  
GOING TO TRY TO LEAVE AROUND 5:00 OR 6:00 A.M.  
FROM DECATUR ON DECEMBER 6, WILL GET A  
DEFINITE TIME LATER.

TERESA SHANNON 267-8667 WORK

654-9232 HOME

SHAWN TAL MAYES 635-3458 HOME

A NON-REFUNDABLE  
DEPOSIT OF \$25.00  
REQUIRED AT THE  
TIME YOU SIGN UP  
AND BALANCE DUE  
ON NOVEMBER 22.  
WE HAVE TO MAKE  
ALL RESERVATIONS  
ATLEAST 7 DAYS IN  
ADVANCE.





MRVF-1  
ECCC

# ECCC - Huddle House Golden Isle Bowl Classic

OBJECTIVE : RAISE \$20,000

TARGET DATE : DEC. 4, 1996

Why do we need \$20,000?

TRANSPORTATION, Food, & Motel Rooms FOR  
A- BAND, MAJORETTES, FLAG BEARERS? \_\_\_\_\_

B- CHEERLEADERS, MASCOT? \_\_\_\_\_

? TRAVEL on FRIDAY - ALL DAY SATURDAY IN BRUNSWICK - TRAVEL on Sunday

COST FOR BUSES \_\_\_\_\_ BUSES x 3 DAYS

COST FOR MOTELS \_\_\_\_\_ 2 NIGHTS x \_\_\_\_\_ ROOM

COST FOR FOOD \_\_\_\_\_

$\left( \text{NUMBER of people} \times \underline{3 \text{ days}} \times \text{Amount per day} \right)$

Suggestions :

①

Mail out a letter on Monday to every person that we have an address on. ? 2700?

A. If we beat Hinds, promote the Championship Game for next Saturday and ask for funds to support the Bowl Game -

B. If we lose to Hinds, Congratulate the team on the



most successful year in football since \_\_\_\_\_.

Promote the Bowl game and talk about the favorable publicity that ECCC will get -

Outstanding year 9-1 -

Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in nation -

Bowl will help ECCC recruit better athletes from all over the South - Georgia, Alabama, Florida



- ② Contact influential alumni in person —  
A. Tam Eyrich — <sup>Dr Smith</sup> — Choctaw Maid Farms  
B. Bill Taylor — Dr Smith & Bobba Hudspeth  
C.  
D.  
E.

- ③ Contact the vendors/suppliers that ECCC does business with on a regular basis —  
List from Mickey Vance  
— MP&L — Contractors —  
— GAS — ENGINEERS —  
— Food — Arch. firms —

- ④ Books in the 5 County area — (12)

? What is the goal of the ECCC Foundation?

? Fund raising is a numbers game —  
— Increase addresses from 2700 ? to 10,000



— County Committees to review ~~and~~ yearbooks and  
develop addresses of former alumni —

Identify Specific Groups —

(A) Athletes —

(B) Band —

(C)



FACT SHEET  
HUDDLE HOUSE GOLDEN ISLES BOWL CLASSIC  
MIDDLE GEORGIA COLLEGE (8-3)  
VS.  
EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE (9-0)  
SATURDAY, 1 P.M., DECEMBER 7, 1996  
GLYNN COUNTY STADIUM  
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA

- Both teams are nicknamed "WARRIORS"
- Middle Georgia is located in Cochran, Georgia. They resumed the football program in 1994 after discontinuing football competition for 35 years. Since 1994, the Middle Georgia Warriors have an overall record of 25-8. They completed 1996 regular season action by compiling an 8-3 record. Their head coach is Dennis Roland. Enrollment at Middle Georgia is 2,049. The College is located 39 miles from Macon.
- Activities scheduled for the Bowl game:
  - (Football Team, Coaches, VIPS)
  - 1. Shrimp Boil on the beach Thursday night
  - 2. Huddle House Breakfast Friday morning
  - 3. B-B-Q Lunch at noon Friday
  - 4. Awards Banquet Friday night
  - 5. Pre-Game meal Saturday morning
  - 6. Parade
  - 7. Post-Game meal Saturday afternoon
  - 8. VIP Luncheon at Coastal Georgia Community College Saturday
- Also provided to players and coaches:
  - 1. Hotel accommodations for 50 football players and 10 VIPS and/or coaches (30 rooms/ 2 per room)
  - 2. \$3,000 travel allowance
  - 3. Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic Commemorative Watches for 60 persons
  - 4. 60 Bowl game shirts and hats
  - 5.
    - Team trophy to champion
    - MVP Trophy to individual player from each team
    - One championship NJCAA game ball
- Ticket information - Advance tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5 for students. Tickets are \$10 for everyone on game day



Glynn County Schools  
Jan Lane Harper, 267-4100  
November 15, 1996

all media

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**East Central Community College VS. Middle Georgia College**

**For Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic**

For the Second Annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic, East Central Community College will play Middle Georgia College in Brunswick on Saturday, Dec. 7.

This announcement was made at a press conference which was held at the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce on Friday afternoon. In making the announcement, Bowl committee chairman Frank Inman said, "We are extremely pleased to have teams of this caliber participate in our Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic."

The East Central Community College football team is currently ranked fifth in the nation. Coached by Willie Coats since 1995, this team is currently undefeated with a 9-0 record. East Central, located in Decatur, Mississippi, will battle Hinds Community College on Saturday for the South Division championship. Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m. at ECCC's Warrior Stadium. The winner of the ECCC-Hinds matchup will meet Holmes Community College on Saturday, November 23, for the state crown. The title game will be hosted by the South Division winner.

Middle Georgia College in Cochran resumed its football program after a 35 year lapse. Under the leadership of Head Coach Dennis Roland, who began the new program in 1994, the Warriors have a current season record of 8-3 and an overall record of 25-8. In 1995, Middle Georgia College was ranked sixth in the nation and won the Mineral Water Bowl, held in Excelstor Springs, Missouri, when it played Hutchinson College of Hutchinson, Kansas. Before coming the MGC, Roland was head football coach at Bleckley High School in Cochran.

The Second Annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 7, in the Glynn County Stadium in Brunswick.

General admission tickets at the gate are \$10.

30

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Derrick Hulsey, Director of Athletics, Glynn County Schools, Brunswick (912/267-4100).



GLYNN COUNTY  
SCHOOLS

# FAX MAIL

SENDING DATE

November 11, 1996

To

NAME

Dr. Eddie Smith

DEPARTMENT

East Central Community College

FAX NUMBER

601-635-4011

FROM

NAME

Frank Inman

DEPARTMENT

Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

2

COMMENTS:

P.O. Box 1677 • BRUNSWICK, GA 31521 • (912) 267-4100 • FAX (912) 265-2011



ECCC

MEMO TO: DR. SMITH

FROM: LARRY HOGUE *LH*

RE: PROPOSAL TO RAISE \$20,000 IN TWO WEEKS!

THEME: "BOWL BOUND!"

"100/200" PROGRAM. TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE RAISE AT LEAST \$100 EACH. INVOLVE ALL BAND, CHEERLEADERS, CENTRALETES, FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, WARRIOR CLUB, ETC. AMOUNTS RAISED BY STUDENT GROUPS WOULD BE CREDITED TO THEIR ACCOUNTS, I.E., BAND MEMBERS FUNDS RAISED CREDITED TO BAND ACCOUNT, ETC.

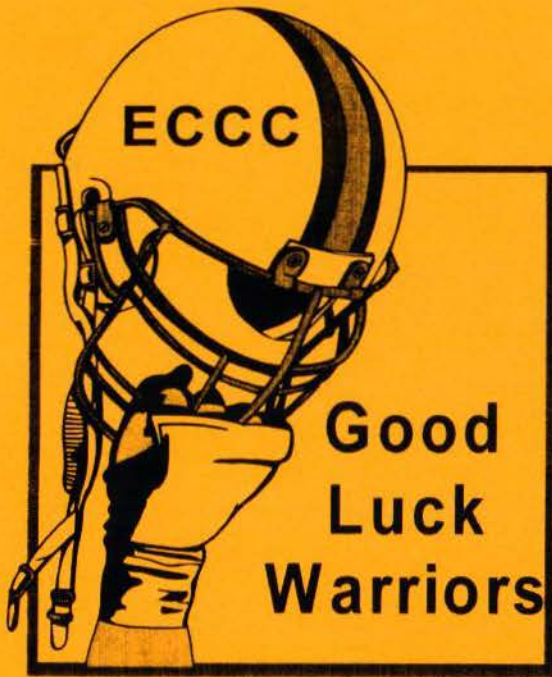
ACTIVATE WARRIOR CLUB TO MAKE CALLS. OFFER SPECIAL RECOGNITION AT SPORTS SUPPER TO INDIVIDUALS WHO INVEST AT LEAST \$1,000, AND TO COUNTY WARRIOR CLUB GROUPS THAT COLLECT THE MOST.

SUPPLEMENT EFFORTS WITH LETTERS TO WARRIOR CLUB MEMBERS AND DIRECT CONTACT BY YOU/OTHERS WITH SOME WARRIOR CLUB MEMBERS AND POTENTIAL MAJOR DONORS.



You are the  
answer!

Thank you for helping honor  
East Central's award-winning  
athletics and extracurricular  
activities.



East Central Community College Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 129

Decatur, MS 39327-0129

601-635-2111, ext. 323

Fax: 601-635-4011

E-mail: Alumni@ALLINTOP.NET



*What's the question?*

**ECCC**  
WITH YOU IN MIND



**The question:  
What's 100 from  
200?**

**The answer:  
\$20,000**

At least \$100 from 200 people will  
raise \$20,000.

At least that much is needed to help  
some 200 East Central Community  
College students take part in:

**The Huddle House  
Golden Isles Bowl Classic  
1 p.m., Saturday  
December 7, 1996  
Glynn County Stadium  
Brunswick, Georgia**

Dear Friend of East Central,

The East Central Community College Warrior  
football team is experiencing its best and most  
exciting season since 1939! As of this writing, the  
Warriors are 9-0 and are ranked number five (5) in the  
nation!

Recognition of the outstanding Warrior football  
program has extended beyond the boundaries of our  
state. Our team has been selected to participate in the  
Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic in  
Brunswick, Georgia, on Saturday, December 7, 1996!

We plan to take our superior "Wall O' Sound"  
Warrior Marching Band, the Centralettes, and our  
cheerleaders to this exciting event.

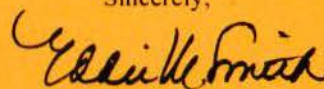
To help cover expenses, we need approximately  
\$20,000. To raise these funds, we are asking at least  
200 people to invest \$100 each toward this need in our  
"100/200" campaign.

Your help with this effort will be greatly  
appreciated.

Your tax-deductible contribution may be made to  
the East Central Community College Foundation, Inc.  
If you have any questions, call me at 635-2111, ext.  
200, or Larry Hogue, our Director of Development  
and Alumni Relations, at ext. 323.

Thanks for all you do for East Central.

Sincerely,



Eddie M. Smith  
President

**Yes!**

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to help send some 200 East  
Central College students to their  
College's bowl game December 7, 1996.

Check one:	Total
_____ \$ 5,000 or more	_____
_____ \$ 1,000 or more	_____
_____ \$ 500 or more	_____
_____ \$100 or more	_____
_____ Other	_____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Attended EC (?) ☐ Yes ☐ No Yrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse attended EC (?) \_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Collected by \_\_\_\_\_ Org. \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

VISA/MC # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle One)

Signature of card holder \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month/Year)

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Hear ye, Hear ye, We the  
Pirates of the Spanish Main and  
noble descendants of Blackbeard's  
crew do hereby capture and hold  
for ransom ~~Dr. Eddie M. Smith~~.  
However, your freedom may be



purchased by promising never to  
shake the sands of the Golden  
Isles from your shoes. Otherwise,  
prepare to walk the plank!

Signed in Blood,  
**The Pirates of the  
Spanish Main**

X Eddie H. Smith

Dec. 6, 1996















# Golden Isles Bowl

BUDDLE HOUSE

DECEMBER 7, 1996









MRVF-1

ECCC

SECOND ANNUAL

# Golden Isles Bowl

CLASSIC



HUDDLE

HOUSE®

RESTAURANTS

December 7, 1996

Middle Georgia College



-VS-



EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**Congratulations**

**2nd Annual**

**Golden Isles**

**Bowl Classic**

Welcome  
Middle Georgia College Warriors  
and  
East Central Community College Warriors

**SUNTRUST BANK**





## BRUNSWICK - GOLDEN ISLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

4 Glynn Avenue, Brunswick, Georgia 31520  
Telephone (912) 265-0620  
FAX: (912) 265-0629



Dear Golden Isles Bowl Participants and Fans:

On behalf of the businesses and all citizens of our community, we extend you our warmest welcome to Brunswick and the Golden Isles for this very special occasion, the Second Annual Golden Isles-Huddle House Bowl Game.

Our community is indeed excited to host the Warriors of Middle Georgia College from Cochran, Georgia, and the Warriors from East Central Community College of Decatur, Mississippi. We invite and encourage you to relax and enjoy the many recreational and historical amenities we have to offer in the Golden Isles.

During your stay, should there be any need you have unmet, please feel free to contact any member of the Bowl Committee or staff members of the chamber. Again, welcome to the Golden Isles of Georgia, and in this case I feel safe in being impartial by saying, "Go Warriors"!

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David T. Smith, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

David T. Smith, Jr.  
Chairman



# MIDDLE GEORGIA COLLEGE

COCHRAN, GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



## A MESSAGE FROM MGC

It is a great honor to be an invited participant in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic. I am taking this means to express to the Bowl Committee and to the entire Brunswick community our congratulations and our gratitude. The obvious success of this Bowl Classic, in only its second year, is indicative of the dedication and hard work provided by the committee and the community.

On behalf of the entire Middle Georgia College community, faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters, thank you sincerely for all the hard work and preparations, and thank you for your confidence in the MGC football program as evidenced by your kind invitation. This will be an event that our players, coaches, and fans will remember for the rest of their lives.

MGC is a historic institution with a bright future. Having been chartered in 1884 as a private institution, becoming state supported in 1917, and becoming a charter member of the USG in 1931, makes MGC one of the oldest two-year institutions in the country.

Throughout its long history MGC has evidenced a tradition of both academic and athletic prowess. Numerous initiatives are in place for these traditions to be insured for the foreseeable future.

This fall MGC registered 2064 students. There has been an enrollment growth trend of approximately 40% over the last six or seven years. The institution has embraced the use of technology over the last 4-5 year period. The extensive use of technology serves to insure that our students are thoroughly prepared to succeed as they take their places of responsibility at other institutions of higher learning, or in the job market.

As evidenced by comparative grade point averages at the respective institutions, MGC students who transfer to four-year institutions within the USG tend to perform as well or better at the receiving institution. In our two-year professional program for Associate Degree Registered Nursing graduates we are proud to announce a 98% pass rate on the NCLEX exam this year. At one point in recent years our ADRN graduates compiled a 100% pass rate for four year in a row.

MGC continues to send, in most years, more engineering transfer students to GA Tech than any other system two-year college.

As evidence of athletic prowess, within the last 24 months MGC has had four of its varsity teams ranked in the top 10 in NJCAA national polls; one of these was a national championship in baseball.

MGC is committed to gender equity in its athletic programs. This commitment helped in the 6th place finish of our women's tennis team in 1994. In the fall of 1997 MGC will field yet another women's sport, basketball.

We sincerely appreciate this opportunity, provided by your kind invitation, to showcase the many positive attributes of Middle Georgia College.

We eagerly await the clash of two tribes of Warriors from two outstanding institutions in the second annual Golden Isles Bowl Classic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Ben Welch".

Joe Ben Welch  
President



unswick

*Coca-Cola*

College and East Central Community College  
Golden Isles Bowl Classic, December 7, 1996



## EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE WARRIORS



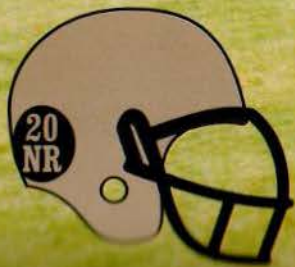
HEAD COACH: WILLIE COATS

ASSISTANT COACHES: TERRY UNDERWOOD, TIMMY COATS,  
FREDRICK LYONS, JON WILLIAMS, JUAN BECKUM

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	CLS	HOME TOWN
1	Xavier Thomas	SS	5'11"	205	S	Holt, AL
2	Calvin Williams	WR	5'11"	185	S	Walnut Grove, MS
3	Shaun Walker	K/P	5'9"	163	F	Morton, MS
5	William Johnson	LB	5'11"	205	F	Newton, MS
7	Ashanti Webb	CB	5'11"	182	S	Tampa, FL
9	Mack Pittman	RB	5'9"	235	F	Panama City, FL
10	Mark Thomas	CB	5'10"	185	S	Tuscaloosa, AL
11	Kemba Bryant	LB	6'1"	215	S	Atlanta, GA
12	Al Hunt	QB/P	5'10"	196	F	Honea Path, SC
13	Ernie Stribling	FS	5'11"	163	F	Walnut Grove, MS
14	Jake Kizziah	QB	6'2"	205	S	Tuscaloosa, AL
15	Calvin Johnson	WR	5'10"	175	F	Newton, MS
18	Chris Arrington	TE	6'0"	232	F	Newton, MS
19	Joey Pinkston	FS	6'0"	170	F	Forest, MS
21	Derrell Reed	RB	5'10"	205	S	Forest, MS
23	Joseph Anders	FS	6'1"	192	F	Tuscaloosa, AL
24	Kenny Kelly	LB	6'2"	205	F	Panama City, FL
25	Chris Crosby	CB	5'10"	150	F	Louisville, MS
26	Tim Livingston	FB	5'10"	170	S	Carthage, MS
33	Jeff Rowell	LB	5'11"	205	S	Tuscaloosa, AL
34	Billy Singleton	FB	6'1"	190	F	Philadelphia, MS
35	Edwin Moore	CB	5'9"	200	F	Noxapater, MS
36	Steve Bradford	FB	6'0"	226	S	Forest, MS
39	Jimmy Kincaid	LB	6'0"	204	S	Morton, MS
40	Zach Sanders	LB	5'11"	200	F	Philadelphia, MS
42	William Curry	DE	6'1"	241	F	Tuscaloosa, AL
44	Kevin Blanks	DL	6'1"	236	S	Meridian, MS
45	Neal Keeton	DE	6'1"	245	S	Morton, MS
46	Chad Neese	FB	6'1"	182	F	Philadelphia, MS
51	Delvin Rainer	DL	6'2"	231	F	Tuscaloosa, AL
52	Byron Johnson	DL	6'1"	256	F	Louisville, MS
53	Bo Thomas	SG	6'4"	280	F	Morrow, GA
54	Demarcus Holmes	C	5'11"	256	S	Louisville, MS
56	Tyquan Taylor	DL	5'11"	236	F	Louisville, MS
58	Dejuan Clark	LB	6'0"	212	F	Tuscaloosa, AL
59	Ryan Stokley	QT	6'1"	257	S	Morton, MS
60	Charles Pease	QG	6'2"	252	F	Nanah Waiya, MS
66	Brian Harpole	C	6'2"	276	F	Tuscaloosa, AL
67	Earl Truss	NG	6'1"	232	S	Edinburg, MS
69	Russell McCann	QG	5'11"	244	S	Conehatta, MS
71	Corey Hamler	NG	6'1"	303	F	Charleston, WV
73	Jason Nixon	ST	6'3"	275	F	Seminole, GA
74	Letrail Cistrunk	ST	6'6"	280	S	Louisville, MS
76	Cyrus Ben	SG	6'0"	232	F	Philadelphia, MS
83	Undeon Hardy	TE	6'2"	237	F	Philadelphia, MS
88	Horace Nash	WR	6'2"	196	F	Carthage, MS
99	Kendrick Clancy	DL	6'2"	263	F	Tuscaloosa, MS



# EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**1996 WARRIORS**





# EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI 39327

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM  
DR. EDDIE M. SMITH  
ECCC PRESIDENT



601-635-2111

On behalf of the administration, faculty, staff, student body, and alumni of East Central Community College, I want to express our appreciation to the officials of the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic for inviting our Warrior football team to participate in this outstanding event.

We have looked forward with great anticipation and enthusiasm to this weekend's activities which will involve not only our nationally-ranked Warrior football team but also the ECCC Wall O' Sound Marching Band, and our outstanding football cheerleading squad.

We are experiencing a great year at East Central Community College. Several of our student athletes from the class of 1996 were selected to receive various NJCAA honors; a record 1,828 students are enrolled in regular college courses this fall; we have served an additional 524 people enrolled in Adult Basic Education and 2,993 in the industrial training programs for a total enrollment of 3,617; we recently held the dedication ceremonies for our new Associate Degree Nursing/Child Care Technology Building; a 95 percent pass rate on the State Board Exam was earned by our 1996 Associate Degree Nursing graduates, and a 100 percent pass rate was achieved by our 1996 graduates in the Licensed Practical Nursing Program on the State Board Exam. Many other outstanding things have taken place during the current fall term, and we look forward to an even more successful spring semester.

Again, thanks to all who were responsible for inviting ECCC to the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic. Our players, coaches, and other college representatives will remember this historic weekend for many years to come.

If we at East Central Community College can ever be of service to you, please call upon us at any time.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Eddie M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eddie M. Smith





# East Central Community College



## WARRIORS

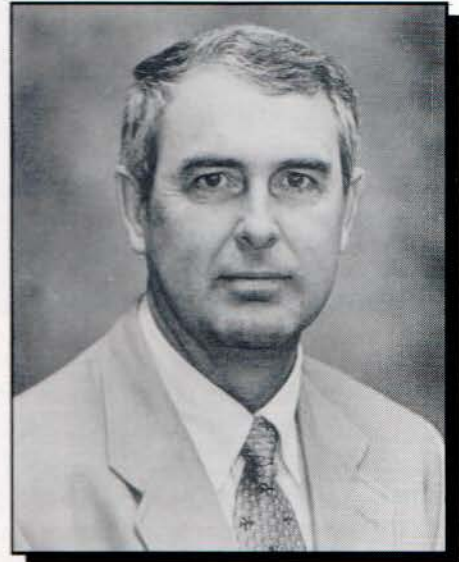
### Sammy Pace

#### Athletic Director

It is with great anticipation and enthusiasm that we begin our athletic seasons at East Central Community College. The rich traditions in athletics from past years and the athletic prowess of the present teams will, we hope, propel East Central to even greater levels of athletic accomplishments.

As we participate on the playing surfaces, we are ever cognizant of the fact that many events are won through and with the help of our efforts in the classrooms. We strive to help our student athletes be successful in both places as they prepare for a brighter tomorrow.

We hope you enjoy our teams and continue to support our athletic program.



## SERVICES

**Case Management** is the most important thing we do. It involves evaluating client needs and collecting pertinent information about the client's resources so that a personal plan can be developed.

**Support Groups** for persons with AIDS and their families are available. People can gather regularly in a safe and confidential environment to discuss their needs and concerns. Groups served:

- Clients with HIV/AIDS
- Families, friends and partners
- Buddies who serve our clients

**Individual Counseling** is provided for those with needs related to:

- Grief • Addiction • Death & dying issues
- Depression • Family support needs

**All Health and Dental Needs** are addressed on the basis of referrals by the Wellness Clinic. The Wellness Clinic makes all medications and other services available to clients through Ryan White Funding. Clinic days are offered in Liberty and Glynn Counties, which also include services for Long, Bryan, McIntosh and Camden Counties.

**Emergency Assistance** is available for:

- Rent • Utilities • Housing

**Food Bank** assistance is provided in the form of non-perishable food items, raised through community food drives, for clients experiencing food emergencies.

**Buddy Program** volunteers act as personal friends, confidants and liaisons for other CAST services. They work directly with clients to provide practical and emotional support and assistance.

**Legal Assistance** is available through Georgia Legal Aid Services in Savannah.

**Transportation** is provided to clients needing assistance to get to:

- Doctor's appointments • The Wellness Clinic
- Support Groups • The CAST office

**Social Service** assistance is provided for clients who need to access:

- Social Security • Medicaid • Food Stamps

**Community Education** in HIV infection and AIDS is provided for:

- Professional groups • Schools
- Churches • Businesses
- Community & Civic organizations

**CAST for Kids** is a support system for children of HIV/AIDS parents.

## C.A.S.T.

**Coastal Area Support Team**  
*"Serving those with HIV/AIDS"*

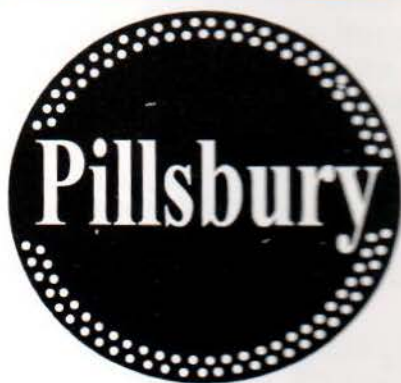




**ECCC**  
**WARRIORS**

**"Coaching  
Staff"**

Willie "Tenny" Coats (kneeling) is beginning his second year as head football coach at East Central Community College in Decatur. In addition to being head mentor, Coats also serves as offensive coordinator and coaches quarterbacks and running backs. Assistant coaches are (standing from left) Terry Underwood (defensive coordinator; linebackers), Timmy Coats (defensive backs), Fredrick Lyons (defensive linemen), Jon Williams (offensive linemen) and Juan Beckum (wide receivers and tight ends).



**Best Wishes  
from  
Pillsbury!**





**Willie Coats**  
**Head Football Coach**

Coats is in his second year as head football coach. His main areas of concentration are running backs, quarterbacks and serving as offensive coordinator. No stranger to Warrior fans, he served on the East Central staff from 1970-76 as assistant football coach and head basketball coach.

Before coming to ECCC the second time, he led Pearl River Community College to an over all 28-13 record over four campaigns, including a 10-0 regular season mark in 1992. The '92 squad set several records and ranked fourth in the nation that year.

Coats led successful high school programs at Hattiesburg, Quitman, Decatur, Lumberton, Seminary and Clara. He received "Coach of the Year" honors six times. He is also a former assistant football coach and defensive coordinator for Delta State University.

## Head Coach



Coats is a graduate of Stonewall High School. A four-year football standout, he played quarterback. He was team captain of the undefeated 1952 and '53 teams and the '54 squad that lost just one game. He participated in the 1955 Mississippi High School All-Star Game and was named Honorable Mention All-American.

He continued his athletic career at the University of Southern Mississippi playing quarterback and defensive back. He helped lead the 1958 Golden Eagles to an undefeated season and the Small College National Championship. That season, Coats was presented the team's sportsmanship award.

Following graduation at USM in 1960, Coats signed a professional baseball contract with the Chicago Cubs and played one year of minor league baseball in Morristown, Tenn. That season, the Cubs won the league championship. He later played two years of minor league football as a defensive back with the Mobile Buccaneers in the Southern Professional Football League.

He holds a bachelor's degree in health, physical education and recreation from USM and a master's degree in education from DSU. Coats and his wife, Lula, have four children: Patti Ezell, a Newton County Elementary School teacher in Decatur; Timmy Coats, an ECCC assistant football coach; Stan Coats, a Mississippi National Guard employee at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg; and Kristi Coats, a member of the Ladies Professional Golf Tour. They have four grandchildren.

# Congratulations!

# Have a Great Game!



Alliant, exclusive supplier of KRAFT dressings



**Terry Underwood**  
**Assistant Football Coach**

In his second year as assistant football coach, Underwood serves as defensive coordinator and linebackers coach.

He previously served as assistant football coach at Pearl River Community College where he was offensive line and strength coach for three years. Prior to joining PRCC, Underwood was defensive coordinator and strength coach at Jones County Junior College. He also served seven years as an assistant football coach at Hattiesburg High School.

A graduate of Seminary High School, he was a standout performer on the football and track teams. He continued his athletic career at JCJC and Delta State University, excelling as an offensive lineman and on the track team. At DSU, he was shot put champion in the Gulf South Conference.

He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in education at DSU. He is married to Carrie Shawn Massengale of Collins. They have three children: Levi, 14; Cali, 5; and Trest, 2.



**Timmy Coats**  
**Assistant Football Coach**

Coats is in his second year as assistant football coach. His duties include coaching defensive backs. Prior to joining ECCC, Coats was an assistant football and baseball coach for five years at Newton High School.

His coaching experience also includes stints at Morton High School (head baseball coach and assistant football coach) and at Mississippi College, where he was a student assistant.

A graduate of Quitman High School, he was a standout in football, basketball and baseball. A quarterback, he played two years for Decatur High School and one year for Quitman. He was selected All-State and participated in the 1980 Mississippi High School All-Star Game. He signed a scholarship to Mississippi College where he played football and baseball until a serious knee injury ended his playing career.

He received his bachelor's degree in health education from MC and is currently working toward a master's degree. He has a son, Alan, 14.



***Be the BEST  
that You can be!  
Have a  
Terrific Game!***

**SEABOARD**  
*farms*

**Providing Products and Services  
of the highest quality in the industry.**



# **WARRIORS**

## **Fredrick Lyons** **Defensive Line** **Coach**

Lyons, who coaches the defensive linemen, previously served as an assistant with other Warrior football staffs. This is his fourth year coaching in the ECCC football program.

In addition to coaching for the College, he teaches carpentry and cabinetmaking through the College's Vocational-Technical Division. He is also a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard.

Lyons is a former standout lineman from Neshoba Central High School and East Central Junior College. Since graduating from ECJC, he has completed additional coursework at ECCC and Mississippi State University.

He is married to the former Lynda Clemons of Philadelphia, a graduate of the ECCC Licensed Practical Nursing Program. They have four children: Eric, Deshaun, Fredrick Jr. and Constance. They are also legal guardians of their niece, Shalanda R. McGowen.



## **Juan Beckum** **Tight Ends,** **Wide Receivers Coach**

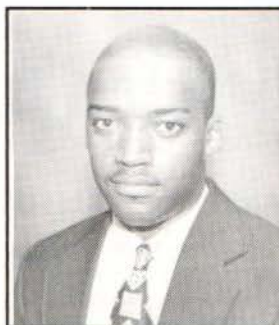
Beckum, of Hattiesburg joins the East Central football coaching staff this year as coach of the wide receivers and tight ends. Beckum was a starting quarterback his senior season at Hattiesburg High School. His head

coach at that time was Warrior Head Football Coach Willie Coats.

When Coach Coats left Hattiesburg to lead the football program at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville, Beckum joined his staff, serving for four years as a manager and trainer. Beckum also served as manager for the PRCC basketball team the year the Wildcats won the State Championship.

His work experience also includes serving as a teacher for the Head Start Center in Hattiesburg.

Beckum is a graduate of Hattiesburg High-School and PRCC. His parents are Tony and Mamie Beckum of Hattiesburg.



# **WARRIORS**

## **Jon Williams** **Offensive Line Coach**

Williams is serving his first year as offensive line coach. He comes to East Central after serving in the same capacity at Wingate (North Carolina) University, a National College Athletic Association Division II program. His duties also included a stint as head junior varsity coach.

A highlight of his career at Wingate was that he coached the recipient of the Jacobs Blocking Trophy, presented to the outstanding offensive lineman in Division II.

Prior to beginning his coaching career, Williams was a three-year starter for Wingate, first as a tight end before moving to the center position. He was unable to play during his senior campaign due to a knee injury. Prior to his senior season, he started in the Florida Shrine Bowl All-Star Classic. He was recognized during his first year of competition as the top academic freshman with a 3.64 grade point average.

Williams was also involved in various campus activities and was a charter member of the Kappa Alpha social fraternity. He graduated from Wingate with a bachelor's degree in public relations.

Prior to signing with Wingate, Williams was a standout athlete at Bay High School in Panama City Beach, FL, where he was an All-State and All-County offensive tackle. He was selected "Player of the Year" his senior season.

His parents are Jon and Phyllis Williams of Panama City Beach.



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Xavier Thomas



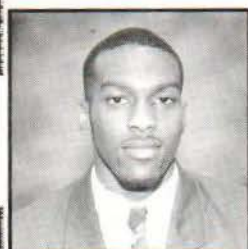
Calvin Williams



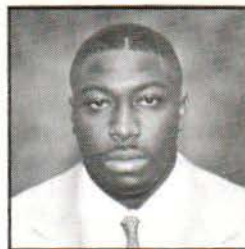
Shaun Walker



William Johnson



Ashanti Webb



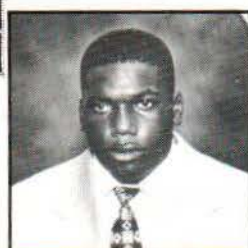
Mack Pittman



Mark Thomas



Kemba Bryant



Al Hunt



Ernie Stribling



Jake Kizziah



Calvin Johnson



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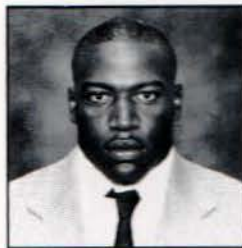
Ad Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. M. Lynn Frey III, Holly and David







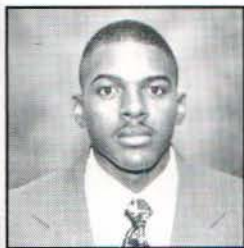
Chris Arrington



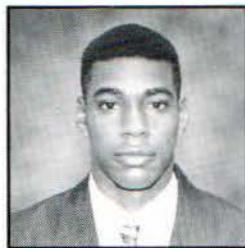
Kendrick Clancy



Derrell Reed



Joseph Anders



Chris Crosby



Tim Livingston



Jeff Rowell



Billy Singleton



Edwin Moore



Steve Bradford



Jimmy Kincaid

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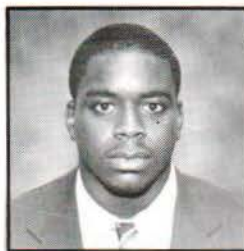
egg  
beaters.







Zachary Sanders



William Curry



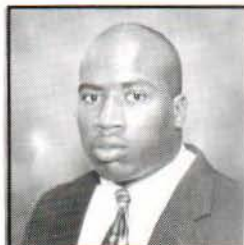
Cyrus Ben



Brad Evans, Mgr.



Kevin Blanks



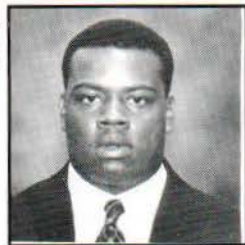
Neal Keeton



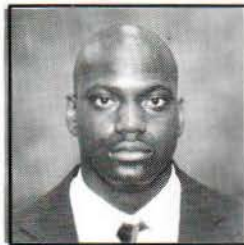
Chad Neese



Delvin Rainer



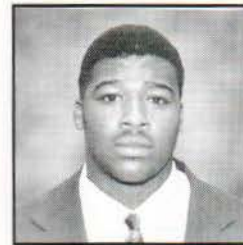
Byron Johnson



Bo Thomas



Demarcus Holmes



Tyquan Taylor

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Dejuan Clark



Ryan Stokley



Charles Pease



Undeon Hardy



Brian Harpole



Patrick Bacon, Mgr.



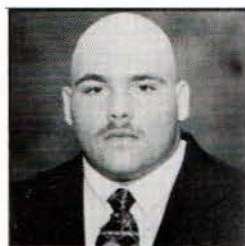
Earl Truss



Russell McCann



Corey Hamler



Jason Nixon



Letrail Cistrunk



Horace Nash

# Best Wishes for the Second Annual Golden Isles Bowl Classic!

## MCCARTY FOODS







## NEWS RELEASE: ECCC STUDENT ATHLETES RECEIVE NATIONAL HONORS



Several East Central Community College athletic teams and various student athletes were recently recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association for their academic achievements during the 1995-96 college term.

The Warrior golf team was named the NJCAA Academic Golf Team of the Year for compiling a 3.7 grade point average, second best in the nation. Members include Peyton Weems, Dow Thomas and Lee Wylie, all of Louisville; Jason Driskell of Forest and Ben Myers of Philadelphia. Joe Clark serves as coach.

Warrior tennis players were also selected NJCAA Academic Men's Tennis Team of the Year for compiling a 3.49 grade average. Members include Asif Iqbal of Forest, Ryan Smith of Little Rock, Ty Nowell of Philadelphia, Jon Sharp and Brian Parks, both of Newton; and Bart Gregory of Louisville. The men's tennis is also led by Coach Joe Clark.

Student athletes who received individual honors by being chosen NJCAA Academic All-Americans and their respective sports areas include Jon Sharp of Newton, tennis; Jennifer Alexander of Carthage, basketball; Ty Nowell of Philadelphia, tennis; Peyton Weems of Louisville, football and golf; Craig Vowell of Philadelphia, baseball; Lee Wylie of Louisville, football and golf; and Dow Thomas (Distinguished) of Louisville, tennis.

Recipients of the prestigious honor must have lettered in one or more sports recognized by the NJCAA and have an accumulated grade point average of 3.6 or better on a 4.0 scale. Students selected Distinguished Academic All-Americans earned at least a 3.8 GPA.

The outstanding ECCC sports teams and student athletes will be featured later this year in JUCO Review, the association's national publication.

# Congratulations and Good Luck!

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**ECCC**  
WARRIORS

**ECCC**  
WARRIORS

**ECCC**  
WARRIORS



## **East Central Community College Cheerleaders**

Football Cheerleaders at East Central Community College in Decatur for the 1996-97 campaign include (front) Gabriel Miller, Warrior Chief mascot, (second row from left) Tonya Covington of Noxapater; Bill Johnson and Crystal Cooley, both of Hickory; Patrick Moore of Louisville; Stephanie Rascoe of Stonewall, co-captain; Wade Breazeale of Philadelphia; Joni French of Forest; Bryan Madison of Philadelphia; Heather Munn of Newton, and (third row from left) Kristie Temple of Hickory; Kristi Martin of Bossier City, LA; Ryan White of Philadelphia, co-captain; Emily Jenkins of Shubuta, and Kelly Melton of Enterprise. Virginia Pace, ECCC English instructor and Tom Tom advisor, serves as cheerleader sponsor.

# **Good Luck! Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic**

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## East Central Community College Marching Band

# "The Wall O' Sound"



### **Tom Carson** **Director of Bands**

Carson is in his 15th year as director of bands and music instructor at East Central Community College.

He is a graduate of Forest-Sherman High School in Naples, Italy, East Central Junior College and Delta State University, where he received a bachelor's and master's degree in music education.

He is married to the former Brenda Branning of Philadelphia who serves as financial aid director for the College. They have three children: Christopher, Jennifer, and Jeremy.

### **Johnny May** **Assistant Band Director**

May, a native of Grenada, is in his second year as assistant band director and music instructor at East Central.

He previously served as director of bands and music instructor at Clarksville High School in Texas.

He is a graduate of Grenada High School and Delta State University. He received his bachelor's degree in music education and master's degree in music education with an emphasis in percussion, both from DSU.

### **Drum Major**

Richard Edwards, II, a sophomore secondary education major, is returning as head drum major after serving last year as assistant drum major. He previously served two years as drum major at Scott Central where he received six consecutive superior ratings at district and state level competitions and tri-state festivals. He also served as student conductor. He is the son of Debbie Tadlock of Forest and Richard Edwards of Lake Charles, LA.

### **Assistant Drum Major**

Cheryl Watkins, a freshman from Lake, has been selected as assistant drum major. A 1996 graduate of Lake High School, she received superior ratings at the state band contests during her senior and junior years as drum major. She was also a featured performer during half-time ceremonies of the 1995 Florida Citrus Bowl. Watkins plays the clarinet and was a member of the LHS Band for eight years.





**WARRIORS**

**"Centralettes"**

**Centralettes**

**Angelia Weems**

**Choreographer/Coordinator**

Members of the 1996-97 Centralettes, the danceline for the Warrior Marching Band, are (first row from left) Brandi Atkinson, Carthage High School; Tori Jordan,

Newton County High School; Heather Smith, Noxapater High School; Whitney Salter, Neshoba Central High School; Jessica Hollis, Morton High School; Karen McRae, Carthage; Bonnie Bates, Neshoba Central; and Kelly Alexander and Michelle Henley, both of Newton County, and (second row from left) Amanda Posey,

Neshoba Central; Mandi Sanders, Carthage; Layla Peoples, Newton High School; LaRee Lyle, captain, Scott Central; Erin Craven, Newton County Academy; Lisa Harrison, co-captain, Newton County; Tracy Richards, Newton; Allison McPhail, Leake Academy; and Jill Martin, Neshoba Central.

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# East Central Community College Warrior Corps



Warrior Corps is the official student host and recruiting group for East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi. The College serves a five-county district. For more information on East Central, call the Student Services Office at (601) 635-2111, ext. 205.



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# **ECCC** **WARRIORS**

## **E.C.C.C.'s Winning Season Marred By Tragedy**

It's been a season of triumph and tragedy for the East Central Community College football team, which posted its best record (9-1) since 1939, when the Warriors went 10-0 and claimed their only state championship in the sport.

In recognition of ECCC's outstanding season, the number 9 ranked Warriors will meet the Warriors of Middle Georgia College (8-3) in the second annual Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic scheduled December 7 in Brunswick, Georgia. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. at Glynn County Stadium.

But midway into the 1996 campaign, one of East Central's freshman football players - Nathan Russell of Forest, Mississippi - died the day before the College's homecoming battle scheduled October 12 against perennial power Hinds Community College.

Russell, a special teams member and backup strong safety, was killed following a two-vehicle accident on October 9 which also caused six of the seven ECCC students involved in the mishap to be hospitalized. The accident happened less than an hour after the homecoming bonfire/pep rally held on East Central's South campus.

The 18-year-old Russell was a front-seat passenger in an automobile carrying five ECCC male students which collided with another vehicle containing three males, two of whom are members of the Warrior basketball squad. One of the players, Lance Jones of Decatur, is still hospitalized, but is expected to be discharged in early December and continue his physical therapy.

The other students injured were treated and released within a week

after the accident, although some are in the process of recovering from their injuries.

Services for Russell, who was buried



in his ECCC jersey #20, were held Sunday, October 13, with over 500 mourners in attendance. Members of the Warrior football team served as honorary pallbearers. A scholarship in Russell's honor has been established at the Bank of Forest, located in Forest, Mississippi.

East Central officials - along with the cooperation of Hinds Community College and The Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges - decided to postpone the homecoming game scheduled on the Decatur, Mississippi campus, but held other homecoming activities as previously planned. (The ECCC-Hinds

game was played November 16, with Hinds claiming a 45-7 win for the South Division title. East Central, ranked fifth in the nation, finished regular season action with a 9-1 record.)

The Warriors resumed competition on October 19 against Miss. Gulf Coast Community College. During the division matchup - won by ECCC 28-23 - Warrior football players displayed "20 NR" on the back of each helmet, in memory of their fallen teammate.

Warrior head football coach Willie Coats said of Russell: "He was one of the best young men I've ever coached. Nathan was a Christian and the kind of young man a father would want his own son to grow up and be like. He gave his all on the football field - a 100 percent effort at all times. We never had a problem with him. If I had 50 kids like Nathan Russell,

coaching would be easy and very pleasurable. He was just a great person!"



Coach Coats said special ceremonies to retire Russell's jersey will be held during one of the basketball games scheduled later in the year.

# **ECCC** **WARRIORS**





# History of East Central Community College



In 1928 the Legislature of the State of Mississippi adopted the first basic laws for organization and operation of Mississippi public junior colleges.

East Central Community College opened its doors to a freshman class of twenty students for the first regular session in September of 1928. The college occupied buildings that were a part of the Newton County Agricultural High School, which had been organized in 1914. The Agricultural High School was located on property belonging to the Decatur Municipal School District, which had been created in 1912. The upper high school grades, which comprised the

Newton County Agricultural High School were a part of the college until 1958 when they joined the Decatur Attendance Center.

In March of 1939, East Central Junior College was accredited by the Commission on colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It has been reaffirmed each decade since. The college holds membership in the Mississippi Association of Colleges, the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and The American Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

Originally the institution was supported by three counties - Newton, Neshoba and Scott. Later they were joined by Leake and Winston.

From the two members of the original faculty of East Central Community College - Mrs. W.W. Newsome and Mr. Robert Marshall - the number of administrators, faculty and professional and support staff employed by the college has increased to 180 for the current year. Since its founding, six presidents have served the institution.

The current president is Dr. Eddie M. Smith who began his tenure in 1985.

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**MIDDLE GEORGIA COLLEGE WARRIORS  
1996 SEASON FOOTBALL STATISTICS**

**WINS - 8  
LOSSES - 3**

	SCORE					
	1	2	3	4	OT	FINAL
MIDDLE GA	91	120	66	59	0	336
OPPONENTS	38	24	28	21	0	111

STATISTIC	MIDDLE GA COLLEGE	OPPONENTS
First Downs	181	134
Rushing Attempts	507	385
Yards Gained Rushing	3184	1627
Yards Lost Rushing	-85	-360
Net Rushing Yards	3099	1267
Passes Completed	51	125
Passes Attempted	143	304
Passes Had Intercepted	11	30
Completion Percentage	35.7%	41.1%
Passing Yards	660	1423
Fumbles Lost	19	14
Number Punts	34	61
Punt Yardage	1174	2023
Punting Average	34.5	33.2
Total Return Yards	1550	903
Number Penalties	60	69
Yards Penalized	458	585
Total Offense	3759	2690
Penalty Yds/Game	41.6	53.2
Rush Yds/Game	281.7	115.2
Pass Yds/Game	60.0	129.4
Total Offense Yds/Game	341.7	244.5

**EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
1996 SEASON FOOTBALL STATISTICS**

**WINS - 9  
LOSSES - 0**

**Team Statistics  
Offense**

Scoring-	
Games	9
Points	245
Avg/Game	27.22
Rushing Offense-	
Carries	455
Net	2343
Yds/Game	260.33
Passing Offense-	
Attempts	108
Completions	46
Interceptions	6
Net	861
TD	8
Game Average	95.67
Total Offense-	
Plays	592
Net	3190
Game Average	319.00

**Team Statistics  
Defense**

Opponent Scoring-	
Games	9
Points	129
Avg/Game	14.33
Rushing Defense-	
Carries	356
Net	1126
Yds/Game	125.11
Passing Defense-	
Attempts	228
Completions	90
Interceptions	13
Net	901
TD	6
Game Average	100.11
Total Defense-	
Plays	584
Net	2027
Game Average	225.22



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